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THE MARKET REPORTER

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MARKET NEWS FOR FARMERS.

Fruit and Vegetable Reports in Producing Sections Sent Direct to Growers during Active Season.

Those who have anything to sell need reliable information. They should know the conditions surrounding the sale of their products. Of all the factors involved in the complex and intricate machinery used for marketing perishable fruits and vegetables, the grower is usually least informed. Often he does not know with any degree of certainty the prices being paid to growers in neighboring counties or communities.

Believing that it would be to the advantage and betterment of the fruit and vegetable industry to have accurate official market reports showing daily changes in the markets, the Bureau of Markets started a market news service in March, 1915. The service is now used and highly valued by thousands of growers, shippers, buyers, and dealers in all parts of the country.

News Collected at Shipping Points.

One of the outstanding features of this service is the direct aid given to large producing sections. A bureau representative is stationed at the principal shipping station in the area to be served. He remains there during the heavy shipping season, perhaps three weeks, possibly six months, depending upon the time required to market the bulk of the crop in which he is interested in that particular area. When the bulk of the shipments have been made, he is moved to some other section in which the shipping season is just beginning.

The Daily Report.

While stationed in the producing section the market news reporter is in daily contact with growers, shippers, buyers, and railroad officials. Through these contacts he learns the prices paid to growers by local dealers and traveling buyers representing firms in the large consuming and distributing markets. The local railroad officials tell him each day the number of cars shipped and their original destinations. Often this record of destinations is supplemented by a record of diversions made further along the line to market. From the local shippers he learns each day the f. o. b. prices received by them for shipment to the large markets. He also learns the extent of the demand from large consuming centers. After talking with these people, he issues daily about noon a mimeographed report showing the number of cars shipped during the preceding 24 hours from that section and their primary destinations.

While this daily report of local market conditions is valuable to that community, its value is enhanced further by telegraphic reports received each forenoon from the large markets, such as Kansas City, Chicago, New York, and a number of others, which are the principal market outlets for the commodity in question. The Bureau of Markets at Washington, through its arrangement with several hundred railroad division superintendents in all parts of the country, telegraphs him each day the number of cars of that commodity shipped from each State daily. This enables shippers to know the number of cars shipped from other sections, which will appear in the markets in competition with theirs.

The Wire Service.

The telegraphic reports received from the large cities each day show the prevailing temperature, which is always a factor in marketing perishables, the number of cars which have arrived and are ready for sale, the demand for the product, a general statement regarding the quality and condition of the stock arriving, and the prices at which the bulk of it is being sold.

The reports issued are promptly mailed and otherwise distributed free of charge to growers, shippers, buyers, and others who are interested in the marketing of the product concerned. The entire service is rendered by the Government as an aid to better marketing, by enabling everyone concerned to keep in touch with market conditions. The local representative of the bureau does not regulate or control distribution, fix prices, or otherwise hamper or interfere with legitimate and fair-trade practices. He is merely the medium through which a free interchange of information can be accomplished without bias or prejudice and without revealing the business of any one firm or individual. He acts as a clearing-house for reliable information, a free and equitable dissemination of which tends to stabilize prices from day to day by minimizing uncertainty and enables both buyer and seller to transact business in the light of actual conditions, thus finally encouraging more and better production.

Fair Trade Promoted.

A wide dissemination of reliable market information has a salutary effect upon the trade by making it more difficult for the unscrupulous receiver to yield to the temptation to render incomplete or inaccurate returns, and by discouraging the circulation of fictitious reports of market conditions. It is believed the publication of facts will stimulate healthy competition, discourage unfair and wasteful practices and in so doing go far to improve the ethics of our marketing methods. Growers living in areas receiving this direct news service are encouraged to avail themselves of its facilities.

FEBRUARY MEAT TRADE.

Beef Declines While Pork Shows Upward Trend.—Lamb and Veal Unsettled.

With practically a complete stoppage of exports of all meats at the end of February to those foreign countries which under normal conditions have been the principal outlet for our surplus and a generally slow domestic demand, there exists a feeling of uncertainty as regards the probable trend of the market, while export trade generally is marking time. The increase in stocks of lard during January was greater than for any month since 1916, and with that exception was the largest monthly increase in the past 15 years. In fact, practically all exportable pork products showed liberal increases in stocks on hand at packing centers during that month. Lard prices during February inclined heavily toward lower levels, which brought about unusual price relations between pure lard and compound. Under normal trade conditions there has been in the past a wide range between the two, with lard always commanding the higher figure. Abnormal conditions during the past two years tended to narrow the range and resulted during February in a complete reversal of former price relations, placing the range of prices on compound above the range on pure lard. Under a fair domestic demand for cured pork cuts the month's range of prices showed a slight tendency downward.

Little Foreign Buying.

There was no appreciable change in the foreign exchange situation during the month and in some countries conditions were even more complicated than before. Reports from the United Kingdom estimate the visible supplies of bacon for that country as being sufficient for six months. Germany has been unable to improve her financial condition, and as a consequence has made no recent purchases in this country. France has bought practically no meats during the past few weeks, and there are only slight indications of a material change in the buying activities of that country in the immediate future. Trade in meats with Italy, Holland, and Belgium during the month was almost at a standstill, recommendations being made in some sections that certain supplies now on hand be returned to the consignors. The unsettled conditions in the Scandanavian countries have not improved and their purchasing ability is very limited.

There was an approximate decrease of 83,000 in receipts of cattle and 726,000 in receipts of hogs at seven of the principal live stock markets in this country during

(Continued on page 160.)

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LIVE STOCK

LIVE-STOCK MARKETS CONTINUE WEAK.

Better Grades of Steers Affected Most.

[Chicago, East St. Louis, Kansas City, and Omaha.]

Ten markets received during the week ending February 28 a combined supply of about 179,300 cattle, 527,400 hogs, and 216,400 sheep compared with 168,100 cattle, 590,000 hogs, and 204,700 sheep the week previous and 205,574 cattle, 839,326 hogs and 203,760 sheep the corresponding week last year.

Cattle.—Although receipts of cattle around the market circuit during the final week of February were moderate, further declines from those enforced the week previous were recorded. Bearish influences included declines in the hide market and curtailment of the beef outlet because of the Lenten period. In the beef-steer trade, the higher priced grades were again subject to the most severe declines, and the recently wide range in values was further contracted. Although strictly good to choice, long-fed cattle were scarce at all points and prime cattle were virtually lacking, demand for such grades was easily met; local packers and eastern order buyers showing marked preference for the medium and lower grades, asserting their inability to get the money out of the higher priced carcasses, barring an occasional lot bought on special order, and describing the retail trade as favoring the cheaper grades of beef. Declines for the week measured 25 to 50 cents at most points on the good to best beef steers, cheap stuff holding with relatively little or no loss. Some improvement over the week's low point was shown in the tone of the trade during the last half of the week but recovery of previously enforced declines could not be effected. While one load of prime 1,465-pound steers reached $16 at Chicago and a few other loads of choice grades reached $14.75 to $15.25, cattle good enough for most any outlet sold there around $13.50 and a fairly well conditioned kind of short-fed 1,000 to 1,200 pound steers sold at $11 to $12.50. Choice 1,300-pound cattle did not pass $13.15 at Kansas City and a good many common, light killing steers sold at Missouri River markets below $9. Butcher cow stuff showed about the same decline at Chicago as beef steers but suffered less loss elsewhere, fat heifers, particularly those on the yearling order, holding up well at most points and closing strong to 25 cents higher at Kansas City.

The decline in the hide market was a potent factor in dull and sharply lower markets for canner cows, which closed around 50 cents lower for the week, with extremes quoted as much as $1 lower at Omaha. Most of the canner cows sold during the week at $1.50 to $5 an inferior grade lower, touching the lowest price levels recorded within many months. Bulls declined irregularly at most points, although a comparatively good shipping demand held bologna grades up well at Chicago. Declines in the calf-skin market and more liberal receipts of country dressed veal, together with a seasonal swelling marketward movement of calves from the dairy regions, caused declines in calf values, with East St. Louis and Chicago prices off the most. Heavy calves showed less loss than medium and light weight vealers. Feeder steers declined 25 to 50 cents at Kansas City, but held without much change else-

LIVE STOCK PRICES, TUESDAY, MAR. 2.

[Price per 100 pounds.]

	Chicago.		East St. Louis.	Kansas City.	Omaha.
	Mar. 2.	Feb. 24.	Mar. 2.	Mar. 2.	Mar. 2.
HOGS.					
Top	$15.50	$14.50	$15.40	$14.80	$14.35
Bulk of sales	$14.40-15.25	$13.75-14.25	$14.75-15.30	$13.80-14.60	$13.60-14.15
Heavy (250 pounds up), medium-choice	14.10-14.80	13.50-14.00	13.75-14.85	13.50-14.00	13.60-13.90
Medium (200-250 pounds), medium-choice	14.70-15.25	13.85-14.35	14.75-15.30	13.70-14.60	13.90-14.35
Light (150-200 pounds), common-choice	15.00-15.40	14.15-14.50	15.10-15.40	14.10-14.70	13.80-14.25
Light lights (130-150 pounds), common-choice	14.50-15.15	14.00-14.50	14.85-15.40	.....	13.25-14.00
Packing sows (250 pounds up), smooth	13.00-13.50	12.25-13.00	12.50-12.75	12.50-12.75	13.25-13.50
Packing sows (200 pounds up), rough	12.25-12.75	12.00-12.25	12.00-12.50	12.00-12.50	12.50-13.25
Pigs (130 pounds down), medium-choice	13.25-14.50	13.25-14.25	12.00-15.00	.....	.....
Stock pigs(130 pounds down), common-choice	.....	.....	11.50-14.50	12.00-14.50	11.00-13.00
CATTLE.					
Beef steers:					
Medium and heavy (1,100 pounds up)—					
Choice and prime	14.25-16.00	13.75-16.00	13.50-15.00	13.00-14.50	13.25-14.50
Good	12.75-14.25	12.00-13.75	12.00-13.25	11.65-13.00	11.75-13.25
Medium	11.50-12.75	11.25-12.00	10.50-11.75	10.65-11.65	10.75-11.75
Common	9.00-11.50	9.00-11.25	9.00-10.25	9.15-10.65	8.75-10.75
Light weight (1,100 pounds down)—					
Choice and prime	13.40-15.60	12.85-15.60	13.25-15.00	12.60-14.25	13.00-14.50
Good	12.25-13.40	11.00-12.85	11.75-13.00	11.25-12.60	11.50-13.00
Medium	11.00-12.25	10.60-11.60	10.25-11.50	9.85-11.25	10.25-11.50
Common	8.75-11.00	8.50-10.60	8.50-10.00	8.25- 9.85	8.00-10.25
Butcher cattle:					
Heifers, common-choice	6.75-13.25	6.50-12.50	7.25-13.50	6.90-11.90	6.50-11.50
Cows, common-choice	6.50-12.00	6.50-11.25	7.25-10.50	6.75-10.65	6.00-11.00
Bulls, bologna and beef	7.00-10.75	7.25-10.75	7.00-10.00	6.25- 9.15	5.25-10.00
Canners and cutters:					
Cows and heifers	4.50- 6.50	5.00- 6.50	4.50- 7.00	4.50- 6.75	3.75- 6.00
Canner steers	6.00- 7.25	6.25- 7.75	5.25- 7.00	5.50- 6.75	6.00- 7.50
Veal calves:					
Light and medium weight, medium-choice	15.00-16.50	15.00-16.50	12.00-17.00	12.50-14.50	14.00-15.50
Heavy weight, common-choice	6.50-13.50	6.25-13.50	8.00-11.00	6.00-10.00	7.50-12.50
Feeder steers:					
Heavy (1,000 pounds up), common-choice	8.50-11.65	8.50-11.50	9.75-11.00	9.00-12.35	8.50-11.50
Medium (800-1,000 pounds), common-choice	8.00-11.25	7.75-11.10	8.50-10.50	8.25-12.10	8.25-11.25
Light (800 pounds down), common-choice	7.75-11.00	7.50-10.85	8.50-10.00	7.90-11.65	7.75-11.00
Stocker cattle:					
Steers, common-choice	7.00-10.50	6.75-10.25	7.00-10.00	6.25-10.85	6.50-11.00
Cows and heifers, common-choice	6.75- 9.00	6.75- 9.00	6.25- 7.75	5.75-10.50	5.00- 8.25
Calves:					
Good and choice	9.50-11.00	9.50-11.00	9.00-10.50	8.50-11.25	8.50-10.50
Common and medium	7.75- 9.25	7.75- 9.25	7.00- 9.00	6.00- 8.25	6.50- 8.50
SHEEP.					
Lambs:					
84 pounds down, medium-prime	17.50-20.30	17.50-20.65	17.75-20.25	17.00-19.75	17.00-19.35
Culls and common	14.00-17.25	14.00-17.25	13.50-17.50	12.00-16.75	13.50-16.50
Yearling wethers, medium-prime	15.25-18.50	15.50-18.75	15.00-18.50	15.50-18.00	14.50-17.00
Wethers, medium-prime	14.00-15.50	14.00-15.50	12.25-15.00	12.00-14.75	11.75-14.00
Ewes:					
Medium, good and choice	11.25-14.50	11.25-14.50	10.25-14.00	11.00-13.75	10.50-13.25
Culls and common	6.00-10.75	6.00-10.75	5.00- 9.00	5.25-10.75	6.50-10.50
Breeding ewes, full mouths to yearlings	.....	.....	.....	8.00-14.00	.....
Feeder lambs	16.25-17.75	16.50-18.00	.....	15.25-17.75	14.50-17.50

WHOLESALE PRICES WESTERN DRESSED MEATS, TUESDAY, MAR. 2.

[Price per 100 pounds.]

	Chicago.			New York.		
	Mar. 2.	Feb. 24.	Feb. 3.	Mar. 2.	Feb. 24.	Feb. 3.
Fresh beef:						
Steers—						
Choice						
Good	$18.00-20.00	$18.00-20.50	$18.50-23.00	$17.00-18.00	$17.00-19.00	$18.00-19.00
Medium	16.00-17.50	16.00-17.50	16.00-18.00	16.00-17.00	16.00-17.00	16.00-17.50
Common	14.00-16.00	14.09-16.00	14.00-16.00	14.00-15.00	15.00-16.00	.....
Cows—						
Good	15.00-16.50	15.00-16.50	16.00-17.50	13.50-15.00	14.00-15.00	15.00-16.50
Medium	13.50-14.50	13.50-14.50	14.50-15.50	12.50-13.00	13.00-14.00	14.00-15.00
Common	12.50-13.50	12.00-13.50	13.00-14.00	11.50-12.00	11.00-12.50	.....
Bulls—						
Good	.....	.....	.....	12.00-13.50	.....	.....
Medium	.....	.....	.....	10.00-11.00	11.00-12.00	14.00-14.50
Common	9.00-10.50	9.50-11.00	11.50-14.00	9.50-10.00	10.00-11.00	13.00-14.00
Fresh lamb and mutton:						
Lambs—						
Choice	32.00-33.00	32.50-33.00	34.00-35.00	30.00-32.00	32.00-34.00	33.00-34.00
Good	30.00-32.00	31.00-32.00	32.00-34.00	29.00-30.00	31.00-32.00	30.00-32.00
Medium	28.00-30.00	29.50-31.00	30.00-32.00	27.00-28.00	29.00-30.00	26.00-28.00
Common	24.00-28.00	26.00-29.00	27.00-30.00	24.00-26.00	24.00-27.00	24.00-25.00
Mutton—						
Good	23.00-25.00	22.00-25.00	21.00-24.00	19.00-21.00	19.00-21.00	20.00-22.00
Medium	20.00-22.00	20.00-21.00	19.50-21.00	17.00-19.00	16.00-18.00	17.00-19.00
Common	17.00-20.00	17.00-19.50	16.00-18.50	12.00-16.00	14.00-16.00	15.00-16.00
Fresh veal:						
Choice	26.00-27.00	27.00-28.00	29.00-30.00	30.00-32.00	30.00-32.00	30.00-32.00
Good	23.00-26.00	24.50-27.00	27.00-29.00	27.00-28.00	27.00-28.00	27.00-28.00
Medium	21.00-23.00	23.00-24.50	24.50-27.00	24.00-27.00	24.00-27.00	24.00-26.00
Common	17.00-21.00	19.00-22.50	21.00-24.50	20.00-22.00	20.00-22.00	20.00-23.00
Fresh pork cuts:						
Pork loins—						
8-10 lbs. aver	24.00-28.00	25.00-28.00	24.00-25.50	28.00-30.00	26.00-28.00	24.00-25.00
10-12 lbs. aver	23.00-27.00	24.50-27.00	23.00-24.50	27.00-28.00	24.00-26.00	22.00-23.00
12-14 lbs. aver	22.00-24.50	23.00-25.00	21.50-23.00	25.00-26.00	22.00-24.00	21.00-22.00
14 lbs., over	20.00-22.50	21.00-23.00	20.00-22.00	23.00-24.00	20.00-21.00	20.00-21.00
Shoulders—						
Plain	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Skinned	18.50-20.50	19.00-21.00	18.50-20.00	20.00-21.00	20.00-21.00	20.00-21.00
Picnics—						
4-6 lbs. aver	17.50-19.50	18.00-19.50	19.00-21.00	.....	.....	.....
6-8 lbs. aver	16.50-18.50	17.00-18.50	18.00-20.00	19.00-20.00	18.00-19.00	19.00-20.00
8 lbs., over	15.00-17.50	16.00-17.50	16.50-18.50	.....	.....	.....
Butts—						
Boneless	.....	.....	.....	26.00-27.00	25.00-26.00	25.00-26.00
Boston style	21.50-23.50	22.50-24.00	20.00-22.00	24.00-26.00	21.00-23.00	22.00-24.00

where. Investment demand has been curtailed by the recent declines in fat cattle values. Prices sustaining influences were moderate supplies of stockers and feeders and the desire on the part of some prospective buyers who are equipped with roughage to carry supplies through to the grazing season to lay in cattle now, rather than to risk their chances of getting equal values later on in the event a buying rush develops. Stocker she stuff held firm at "River" markets.

Hogs.—The hog market declined on the first two days last week, but after Tuesday, the "low day" of the week, there was fair shipping demand, and with moderate receipts and packers all showing need for hogs, some recovery was made compared with Tuesday. A survey of general conditions at the close of last week showed that advances varying from 5 to 50 cents had been registered for the week except at Omaha, where week-end prices were from 10 to 30 cents under those of the previous Saturday. The unseasonably wide spread between quotations on heavy hogs and light hogs continued, with light weights the most popular sellers, but there was some slight improvement noted at times during the week in the demand for the heavier weights. Smooth packing sows are being marketed in relatively small numbers and form a minor percentage of the total receipts. Considering all four markets, prevailing quotations on smooth packing sows range from $12.50 to $13.50. General quality of hog receipts is comparatively good.

Sheep.—More liberal receipts early in the week and sluggish and lower markets for dressed lamb prompted packer bearishness and sharp declines in the market for lambs on foot, which losses were accentuated toward the week end. Except at East St. Louis, where light receipts were absorbed at about steady prices, lamb values closed irregularly lower for the week, fat grades declining 75 cents to $1.25 at Chicago, 75 cents to $1 at Omaha, and 35 to 50 cents at Kansas City. Feeder grades showed sympathetic declines. Light and handy weight yearlings also sold lower at Chicago, but matured sheep values were well sustained at all points because of the scarcity of such stock. About two-fifths of Chicago receipts for the week were direct to packers from other markets, chiefly from Denver. Fair supplies of Colorado fed lambs were reported at Denver, Omaha, Kansas City, and St. Joseph during the week, but other than directs to packers few consignments from this source reached Chicago.

Opening, March 1.—Strength was apparent in the market on beef and butcher cattle at the opening this week; lighter receipts in general and a little life in the demand of eastern shippers, at Chicago at least, being bullish influences in a steady to 25 cents higher market. Canners, cutters, bulls, and calves opened steady to weak, the exception being a 50 cents higher market on calves at East St. Louis. Steady to 25 cents lower described the Monday hog trade, Chicago winding up active and firm after a dull, weak, lower start. Tops on hogs at the various markets Monday were as follows: Chicago, $15.25; Kansas City, $14.55; Omaha, $14.20; and East St. Louis, $15.35. Chicago started the week with a steady to strong lamb trade, other points varying from steady to 50 cents lower. Sheep were little changed.

The importation of frozen meat into Italy has declined to about 2,500 tons per month, owing to the abundance of fresh meat.

(Live stock continued on page 160.)

RECEIPTS, SHIPMENTS, AND LOCAL SLAUGHTER.

Week Ending Feb. 28.

Market.	Cattle and calves.			Hogs.			Sheep.		
	Receipts.	Shipments.	Local slaughter.	Receipts.	Shipments.	Local slaughter.	Receipts.	Shipments.	Local slaughter.
Chicago	72,013	19,296	52,717	144,824	39,530	105,294	71,389	13,462	57,927
East St. Louis	19,253	3,183	15,176	84,500	41,411	62,305	4,686	386	4,175
Indianapolis[1]	9,127	5,394	4,719	40,406	16,723	22,329	1,924	1,382	423
Kansas City	31,732	11,775	19,982	47,313	36,413	30,396	29,587	8,550	23,740
Omaha	26,851	9,155	15,866	59,670	18,461	43,281	44,036	9,393	33,915
St. Joseph	14,126	4,501	8,866	33,775	5,978	26,845	23,069	1,268	20,355
St. Paul	23,840	7,037	16,494	54,611	7,098	43,109	5,897	1,581	3,715
Sioux City[1]	15,280	9,131	7,455	42,508	13,729	27,234	7,332	2,958	4,411
Wichita[1]	3,567	2,681	4,886	8,154	630	4,741	127	.....	55
Total	215,789	75,153	146,161	515,761	179,973	365,534	188,047	39,020	148,719
Previous week	205,541	64,961	129,895	571,219	173,245	418,973	200,919	48,797	152,812

[1] Week ending Friday, Feb. 27.

TREND OF FRESH-MEAT PRICES DOWNWARD.

Slight Improvement in Pork Cuts at Eastern Markets.

[Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago.]

Although weather conditions were very favorable, the slow demand which usually accompanies the Lenten season existed at all markets during the week ending February 28, and the general price trend on carcass meats was toward a lower level, while eastern pork markets showed a gradual price improvement over the previous week.

Beef.—A general slow demand characterized beef trading at all markets. The extreme scarcity of choice beef steers caused a late week-end upturn in values on this grade at Boston and Chicago, but not of sufficient strength to quote the markets higher. Lower grades continued the downward trend of the previous week, with closing prices mostly 50 cents lower and extreme declines of $1 on some grades. Most of the offerings showed the effects of short feeding periods, with the bulk of receipts in the medium grade. Good, fleshy cow beef held firm at the eastern markets, with lower grades weak to 50 cents lower. Good cow beef weakened at Chicago, while lower grades showed an advance of 50 cents. There was no improvement in the demand for bulls either east or west and prices were mostly 50 cents to $1 lower than the previous week. Kosher beef trade was uneven and demand irregular, with the Boston trade showing the most interest.

Veal.—Increasing seasonal supplies of local slaughtered calves and sharply declining prices on skins had a weakening effect on all dressed-veal markets, with Chicago showing the greatest declines, and only slight changes at the eastern markets.

Pork.—Conditions affecting the marketing of fresh pork cuts at Chicago and the eastern cities were very dissimilar. Under light receipts eastern markets advanced $2 over the previous week, while Chicago declined a like amount, with all cuts affected.

Lambs.—The week's business in lambs was done on a slightly lower level than the previous week, with a gradual downward tendency until Thursday, followed by sharp declines during the closing hours on Friday, when prices were pushed $2 below one week ago.

Mutton.—Trade in mutton at Chicago was done on a strong to higher market, with demand centered on handy-weights. All eastern markets were weak and prices at the close $1 to $3 lower than one week ago.

STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS.

Week Ending Friday, Feb. 27.

	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
Market origin:			
Chicago	4,488	201	6,325
East St. Louis	2,145	1,917	324
Fort Worth	7,938	331	427
Indianapolis	727	548	92
Kansas City	12,430	1,980	3,441
Oklahoma City	1,242	1,149	.....
Omaha	6,683	484	3,666
St. Joseph	1,267	422	621
St. Paul	4,567	2,446	630
Sioux City	5,172	287	313
Wichita	1,642	393	.....
Total	48,301	10,188	15,869
Previous week	42,599	13,550	22,716
States destination:			
Alabama	175	.....	.....
Illinois	4,286	1,012	3,780
Indiana	1,035	668	92
Iowa	8,224	2,662	342
Kansas	7,756	316	2,462
Kentucky	399	.....	.....
Maryland	140	.....	.....
Michigan	58	123	694
Minnesota	1,495	26	810
Mississippi	30	.....	.....
Missouri	5,253	2,583	1,576
Nebraska	6,164	457	3,489
New Jersey	18	.....	.....
New Mexico	38	.....	.....
New York	452	184	270
North Dakota	92	.....	.....
Ohio	712	502	712
Oklahoma	2,380	853	177
South Carolina	34	.....	.....
South Dakota	741	145	.....
Tennessee	30	.....	.....
Texas	7,512	627	722
Virginia	270	.....	.....
West Virginia	215	.....	.....
Wisconsin	515	.....	743
Wyoming	277	.....	.....
Total	48,301	10,188	15,869

DAILY AVERAGE WEIGHT AND COST OF HOGS.

Week Ending Feb. 28.

[Prices per 100 pounds.]

	Chicago.		East St. Louis.		Kansas		Omaha.	
	Av. wt.	Av. cost.	Av. wt.	Av. cost.	Av. wt.	Av. cost.	Av. wt.	Av. cost.
	Lbs.		*Lbs.*		*Lbs.*		*Lbs.*	
Mon	232	$14.23	197	$14.57	233	$13.68	236	$13.72
Tues	239	14.06	203	14.26	231	13.63	239	13.32
Wed	244	14.24	214	14.38	232	13.78	244	13.45
Thurs	239	14.44	216	11.62	223	14.10	242	13.66
Fri	233	14.70	222	14.63	220	14.12	243	13.76
Sat	245	14.70	219	14.83	245	14.06	241	13.69
Average:								
This wk.	239	14.31	212	14.21	229	13.80	241	13.58
Last wk.	240	14.30	217	14.36	228	13.81	240	13.52
4 weeks ago	241	15.37	214	15.46	225	15.20	242	14.87

The above averages are computed on packer and shipper purchases.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

BUTTER MARKET OUTLOOK UNCERTAIN.

In anticipation of lower prices as the spring season opens, butter dealers during the week ending February 28 were anxious to prevent an accumulation of stocks on their floors. This was an easy matter, because, with consumptive demand ahead of production, as indicated by the receipts of current make, large quantities of storage stocks and recent arrivals of butter from Denmark, Canada, and California were all required to prevent a price advance in the eastern markets. In fact it was felt in some quarters that the sentimental effect of the importation of butter and the fear of a severe decline in prices created more selling pressure than was warranted by the actual market conditions. As a consequence the price of 92 score butter averaged 0.8 of 1 cent under the previous week at the five important markets: New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, and San Francisco.

The scarcity of fresh supplies facilitated the withdrawal of large quantities of butter from storage, including Belgium-owned stocks, which were offered for sale on our markets. Although the percentage of finer quality butter increased, it still fell short of requirements, thereby creating an outlet for the medium grades. The poorest qualities continued to drag and were unable to find much outlet at current prices.

In general the outlook for the future is uncertain. Prices on the five important markets averaged 10.19 cents above the corresponding week last year and the season for rapid increases in production draws near. Production so far this year seems to be considerably below that of last year. Dealers have almost constantly endeavored to keep stocks low in preparation for the deluge of receipts which so far has failed to materialize. Every sentimental weakening factor, including increased receipts, imports, and the contemplated effect of high prices on consumption, has failed to cause the material price decline so often predicted. A new factor, which may have some significance, is the arrival on the markets in increasing quantities of butter made from milk until recently sold for condensing purposes.

CHEESE MARKET UNSETTLED.

Following weeks of dull trading and declining prices, the cheese market during the week ending February 28 tended to become somewhat more active. Although the price of No. 1 Twins averaged 0.79 of 1 cent below that of the previous week on the New York, Chicago, Boston, and Wisconsin primary markets, increased demand, especially for the fancy grades of Flats, Young Americas, and Daisies, stimulated trading and generally produced a better feeling in the market. As was to be expected with the tremendous storage holdings, undergrade cheese continued to drag.

Probably the main factors instrumental in improving the tone of the market were additional purchases of cheese in Canada by the British Government, continued export business on Skims, and increased consumptive demand developed through skillful advertising on the part of the large holders. It is probable that the present better feeling is a natural reaction after the long period of dull trading. However, it should be noted that in spite of the better feeling, prices actually declined on the average and in many cases held cheese was sold at a loss. During the past few weeks receipts of current make have been somewhat lighter than for the corresponding period last year. Dealers for the most part took advantage of the situation and cleared their floors, for while some still anticipate sufficient export orders to move present storage holdings, the majority in view of the short time available before the new storage season opens are endeavoring to eliminate the chance of being caught with larger stocks than are necessary in the event of a further decline in prices.

REVIEW OF FIVE PRINCIPAL MARKETS FOR WEEK ENDING FEB. 28.

[New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, and San Francisco.]

BUTTER.

WHOLESALE PRICES (PER POUND) CREAMERY BUTTER, 92 SCORE.

	New York.	Chicago.	Philadelphia.	Boston.	San Francisco.
Monday	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Tuesday	65½	65½	67	66	63
Wednesday	65½	65	66½	66	61½
Thursday	65	64½–65	66	66	61½
Friday	65	64½–65	65½	66	61½
Saturday	65	64½–65	65½	66	60½
Average for week	65.20	64.95	66.10	66.00	61.60
Previous week	67.25	64.33	68.00	66.00	62.25
Corresponding week last year	55.00	54.70	55.80	54.00	53.40

COLD-STORAGE MOVEMENT OF BUTTER AT FIVE MARKETS (POUNDS).

	Week ending Feb. 28.	Previous week.	Last year.
Put into cold storage	614,980	624,887	506,237
Withdrawn from storage	4,892,098	3,738,582	2,717,174
Decrease during week	−4,278,028	−3,113,695	−2,210,937
Total holdings	17,993,075	22,271,103	15,177,352

RECEIPTS OF BUTTER AT FIVE MARKETS.

	Pounds.
Week ending Feb. 28, 1920	7,353,711
Previous week	5,220,763
Corresponding week last year	4,813,059

CHEESE.

WHOLESALE PRICES (PER POUND) AMERICAN CHEESE, NO. 1 TWINS.

	New York.	Chicago.	Boston.	San Francisco.[2]	Wisconsin.
Monday	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Tuesday	29–30	27	31–32	28	27
Wednesday	29–30	27	31–31½	27¼	27½
Thursday	29–30	27	30–31	27¼	26¾
Friday	29–30	27	30–31	27½	27
Saturday	29–30	27	30–31	28	27
Average for week	29.50	27.00	30.85	27.60	27.00
Previous week	29.16	28.42	31.50	27.33	28.43

[1] Holiday. [2] Flats.

COLD-STORAGE MOVEMENT OF CHEESE AT FIVE MARKETS (POUNDS).

	Week ending Feb. 28.	Previous week.	Last year.
Put into cold storage	223,201	145,750	506,504
Withdrawn from cold storage	1,413,744	1,044,418	1,005,812
Decrease during week	−1,190,543	−898,668	−449,308
Total holdings	14,465,361	15,655,904	3,308,920

RECEIPTS OF CHEESE AT FIVE MARKETS.

	Pounds.
Week ending Feb. 28, 1920	2,319,643
Previous week	2,100,447
Corresponding week last year	3,363,311

EGGS.

COLD-STORAGE MOVEMENT OF EGGS AT FIVE MARKETS (DOZEN).

	Week ending Feb. 28.	Previous week.	Last year.
Put into cold storage	41,910	221,310	214,710
Withdrawn from storage	654,300	1,528,320	208,860
Increase or decrease during week	−612,390	−1,307,010	+5,850
Total holdings	266,790	879,180	414,270

RECEIPTS OF EGGS AT FIVE MARKETS.

	Dozen.
Week ending Feb. 28, 1920	7,349,490
Previous week	5,865,090
Corresponding week last year	9,562,260

DRESSED POULTRY.

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT OF DRESSED POULTRY AT FIVE MARKETS (POUNDS).

	Week ending Feb. 28.	Previous week.	Last year.
Put into cold storage	1,621,230	1,950,474	662,214
Withdrawn from storage	3,343,050	3,519,642	3,562,619
Decrease during week	−1,721,820	−1,560,198	−2,900,405
Total holdings	58,249,061	59,970,881	65,281,653

RECEIPTS OF DRESSED POULTRY AT FIVE MARKETS.

	Pounds.
Week ending Feb. 28, 1920	3,781,768
Previous week	2,423,006
Corresponding week last year	2,603,567

GROWTH OF CANADIAN DAIRY INDUSTRY.

(From American Consul at Kingston, Canada, Jan. 16, 1920.)

The season of 1919 established new records for Canadian dairying in several respects. Canada has increased her total production of milk, and prices have been higher than they have ever been before. In 1918 the average price paid for cheese by the Dairy Produce Commission was 23.35 cents f. o. b. steamers at Montreal. While similar statistics are not available for 1919, the average price will be somewhere in the neighborhood of 27½ cents per pound on the same basis.

Record prices have also been paid for butter. The average price for all grades of creamery delivered at Montreal is a little over 53½ cents. The quantity of creamery butter produced was the largest of any year in the history of the industry. The output shows an increase in every province except Manitoba, where the labor situation interfered with the shipping of cream and caused more butter to be made on farms. Because a large proportion of Canadian cheese has been handled through unusual channels, it has not yet been possible to secure exact figures of production or export for 1919. The receipts at Montreal were lower than in 1918, but a considerable quantity of cheese was exported to the United States through other ports, and the stocks on hand at country points are larger than they were at this time last year. The home consumption of cheese has, according to the best information obtainable, increased during the year. When the figures are obtained it will be found that there was some decrease in the output of cheese, but that it was more than offset by the increase in the output of condensed milk and milk powder, for the manufacture of which milk supplies were largely drawn from the cheese factories.

The growth of the condensed-milk and milk-powder industries during the war

(Continued on page 153.)

FEBRUARY MILK MARKET REPORT.

Prices Paid Producers at Country Points [1] for Standard or Grade B Milk (3.5 per cent butter fat).

February prices.

Sections.[2]	Number local markets.	Range of prices per 100 pounds.	Average price.
New England	68	$3.50-$4.65	$4.15
Middle Atlantic	111	3.19- 4.18	3.63
East North Central	189	2.90- 4.31	3.67
West North Central	84	2.55- 4.63	3.41
South Atlantic	53	3.89- 6.16	4.38
East South Central	9	2.80- 4.35	3.59
West South Central	30	3.64- 5.98	4.62
Mountain	18	2.79- 3.58	2.94
Pacific	40	2.67- 4.20	3.62
United States	602	2.55- 6.16	3.76

Comparison of January and February prices for same markets.

Sections.[2]	Number local markets.	Average January prices.	Average February prices.	Increase or decrease.
				Cents.
New England	68	$4.23	$4.15	−8
Middle Atlantic	109	3.76	3.63	−13
East North Central	189	3.71	3.67	−4
West North Central	81	3.60	3.42	−18
South Atlantic	53	4.22	4.38	−16
East South Central	9	3.89	3.59	−30
West South Central	25	4.65	4.65	0
Mountain	18	3.11	2.94	−17
Pacific	39	3.68	3.65	−3
United States	591	3.83	3.76	−7

[1] The prices at country points apply to milk delivered direct by farmers in their own cans to local milk-shipping stations and near-by city milk plants. They show the range and average of prices actually received by producers supplying cities and differ from the dealers' buying prices by the costs of transportation applicable to different shipping points. The price per 100 pounds may be reduced to price per quart by dividing by 46.53.

[2] The States making up the several geographic divisions are as follows:

New England—Me., N. H., Vt., Mass., R. I., and Conn. Middle Atlantic—N. Y., N. J., and Pa. East North Central—Ohio, Ind., Ill., Mich., and Wis. West North Central—Minn., Iowa, Mo., N. Dak., S. Dak., Nebr., and Kans. South Atlantic—Del., Md., D. C., Va., W. Va., N. C., S. C., Ga., and Fla. East South Central—Ky., Tenn., Ala., and Miss. West South Central—Ark., La., Okla., and Tex. Mountain—Mont., Idaho, Wyo., Colo., N. Mex., Ariz., Utah, and Nev. Pacific—Wash., Oreg., and Calif.

Retail Prices of Milk, Cream, and Buttermilk for February.

Cities.	Common milk, per quart.	Special milk, per quart.	Certified milk, per quart.	Light cream (18–20 per cent B. F.) per half pint.	Cultured buttermilk, per quart.
	Cents.	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*
Boston	17	19	25	.....	20
New York	16–17	19	25–26	20	.....
Philadelphia	14	16	26–28	16–18	13
Pittsburgh	16	.....	22–23	19–20	.....
Cincinnati	15	.....	.....	15	.....
Chicago	15	22	25	16	18
Minneapolis	13	.....	20	15	12
St. Louis	16	18	22	17	.....
Washington	17–18	18	30	17–20	20
Jacksonville	20	.....	.....	.....	12
New Orleans	19	21	.....	16	17
Memphis	18	.....	25	18	20
Portland	15	.....	.....	17	.....
San Francisco	16	.....	23	15	16
Average of above cities	16.3	19	24.5	17	16.4

(Condensed Milk Market report on page 153.)

166332°—20——2

City Milk Prices for February.

[Per quart.]

State.	City.	Dealers' buying price at city.[1]	Selling price.[2]			
			On routes.			At retail stores.
			Wholesale trade.		Family trade.	
		Bulk.	Bulk.	Bottles.	Bottles.	Bottles.
		Cents.	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*	*Cents.*
Alabama	Birmingham	6.02-7.52	.....	18	20	20-25
Do	Mobile	.....	12.5-15	.....	24-25	.....
Arizona	Phoenix	.....	9.75	14	14-16	.....
California	San Francisco	8.68	11.4	14	16	.....
Do	Los Angeles	8.08	13.75	15	16	16
Do	San Diego	9.56	.....	.....	.....	.....
Colorado	Colorado Springs	7.88-8.12	9.375	12	12.5-13	12.5-15
Do	Denver	6.40-6.77	7.5-8.75	11-12	12-13	12
Connecticut	Hartford	10.05-10.48	13	15	17	17
Do	Bridgeport	8.55	12	15	17	17
Do	New Haven	9.50	12	14	16	16
District of Columbia	Washington	8.91-11.0	13-14.5	14.5-16	17-18	16-18
Florida	Jacksonville	14.22	14.5-15	17	20	18-20
Do	Miami	.....	20	20	25	.....
Do	Tampa	.....	12.5	18	20-25	.....
Georgia	Atlanta	12.48-13.75	16.25	17.5-18.5	20-25	.....
Do	Augusta	9.02	.....	13.5	20	.....
Do	Savannah	.....	17.5	20	25-28	25-28
Idaho	Wallace	.....	12.5	15	15	20
Illinois	Chicago	8.12	11.25-11.75	14-15	15	15
Indiana	Indianapolis	6.76	11	12	14	14
Do	Fort Wayne	8.38	11.25	13	15	15-16
Do	South Bend	7.19	11	11-12	14	14
Do	Evansville	.....	12.25	14.5	16	16
Iowa	Des Moines	8.06	11.25	13	15	14-15
Do	Sioux City	8.81	12.5	14.5	16	.....
Do	Davenport	.....	9.25	.....	14	14
Kansas	Topeka	8.05	11.25	13	15	.....
Do	Kansas City	10.59	.....	.....	.....	.....
Louisiana	Baton Rouge	11.02	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do	New Orleans	11.02	13.75	17	19	19
Do	Alexandria	13.84	15	.....	20	.....
Maine	Portland	7.99	12	13	15	15
Maryland	Baltimore	9.24	14.5	.....	16	.....
Do	Cumberland	8.91-10.16	13.5	16	17	17-18
Massachusetts	Boston	9.99	13.1-14.75	15	17	17
Do	Springfield	9.99	14	14	17	.....
Michigan	Detroit	8.70	13	15	16	.....
Do	Grand Rapids	7.47	10.5	12	14	.....
Do	Kalamazoo	8.60	12	13	15	15
Minnesota	Minneapolis	7.45	10.5	11.5	13	13
Do	St. Paul	7.45	11	12	13	.....
Do	Duluth	.....	.....	.....	15	.....
Missouri	Kansas City	8.16-8.81	10-14	13-15	15-16	14-16
Do	St. Joseph	7.88	12.5	14-15	15-16.6	18
Do	St. Louis	8.74	.....	15	16	16
Montana	Butte	6.83-7.13	10-11.25	12.5	15	12.5-15
Nebraska	Lincoln	8.08	13	13	15	.....
Do	Omaha	6.44-9.60	13.125	14.5	16.6	16-16.6
New Hampshire	Concord	.....	.....	12	14	.....
New Jersey	Newark	8.85	11-12	13	17	.....
Do	Trenton	8.89	12.5	14	14	16-17
Do	Camden	9.00	.....	14	.....	.....
New York	Buffalo	8.29-8.63	10.5	13.5	15	15
Do	New York	8.85	12-12.5	16	16-17	.....
Do	Rochester	8.68	12-12.5	14	15	16
Do	Albany	8.68	11-11.25	16	16	17-18
North Carolina	Asheville	10.01	12.5-13.75	15	18	17-19
North Dakota	Fargo	7.99	10	13	15	.....
Do	Jamestown	6.98	10	.....	12.5	.....
Do	Bismarck	8.60	10	.....	15	.....
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	7.52-8.72	12.5	15	17-20	17-20
Do	Tulsa	8.74	13.75	16	20	20-25
Ohio	Cleveland	9.11	12	14.5	16	16
Do	Cincinnati	9.13	12-13	14	15	15
Do	Toledo	8.27	11	13.5	15	.....
Do	Columbus	9.02	10.75	12	14	14
Do	Dayton	8.60	11.25	14	16	.....
Oregon	Eugene	7.62	10	12	15	15
Do	Salem	7.99-8.60	10	15	.....	.....
Do	Portland	8.06	12.5	13.5	15	17
Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh	9.75	12-14	15-15.5	16	.....
Do	Philadelphia	8.46	11-12	13	14	14
Do	Harrisburg	7.47-7.84	12	12	13	13
Rhode Island	Providence	9.99	13.5	15	17	.....
Do	Newport	9.50	13	13	15	15
South Carolina	Charleston	.....	20	20	25	25
South Dakota	Sioux Falls	8.60	11.25	14	14	17
Tennessee	Memphis	9.99	11-12.5	16	18	18-20
Do	Nashville	7.00	12.5	16	17	.....
Do	Chattanooga	9.34	15	16	19	19
Texas	Fort Worth	9.77	16.25	.....	20	.....
Do	Galveston	11.24-13.00	16.25	17.5	20-22	22
Do	El Paso	.....	12.5	15-16	17-21	.....
Do	San Antonio	7.82	12.5	17	19	19
Utah	Salt Lake City	.....	8.75	11	12.5	13
Vermont	Burlington	7.50	12	12	14	14
Virginia	Richmond	11.00-11.13	14	16	16	20
Do	Roanoke	10.31	14	14	17	.....
Washington	Seattle	6.87-7.61	10-10.5	11-11.5	14-15	.....
Do	Spokane	8.05	11.875	13.5	14.5-15.5	15-16
West Virginia	Wheeling	9.02	12	14	16	16
Wisconsin	Milwaukee	7.73-8.27	10.5	12	13	12-13
Do	Beloit	7.19	10	12	13	.....
Do	Green Bay	6.87	10.5	11.5	13	13
Do	La Crosse	.....	.....	.....	.....	14.5

[1] In many cities for which prices are not given the greater portion of the milk supply is distributed direct by producers.

[2] These prices represent standard, or grade B milk, which is the grade most commonly sold, the butterfat content varying from 3.3 per cent to 4.5 per cent in different cities.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

MARKETS GENERALLY STRONG.

Principal Lines Somewhat Higher with Moderate Supplies.

For the week ending March 1, the apple and potato markets were generally higher, and domestic onions showed price gain at the close. Cabbage made little change. Sweet potatoes and celery were lower. Total shipments of leading fruits and vegetables were slightly heavier, compared with last week and the same week a year ago, but continued at about 1,000 cars daily.

Potatoes Higher.

Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan No. 1 white stock showed little change in price at shipping points, ranging $4.10 to $4.30 per 100 pounds sacked f. o. b. This stock in middlewestern consuming markets advanced about 10 cents to $4.60 to $4.85. Chicago car lots were 40 cents higher, closing at $4.70 to $4.80 bulk per 100 pounds. New York sacked round whites ranged in producing sections $4.25 to $4.72 f. o. b., compared with $3.85 to $4.25 last week. Eastern jobbing markets advanced about 45 cents for this stock, ranging $4.45 to $4.90 bulk. Maine Green Mountains in New York City were quoted at $4.85 to $5.15, compared with $4.70 to $4.85, and closed firm at $5.15 to $5.25. Idaho Rurals and Russets were slightly higher at shipping points, Rurals closing at mostly $4.15 sacked per 100 pounds, wagon loads cash to growers, compared with $4 to $4.15 last week and Russets at mostly $4.25 compared with $4.10 to $4.20. Chicago jobbing sales for this stock ranged 5 to 10 cents lower at $4.65 to $4.80.

Cabbage Markets Unsettled.

Some cabbage quotations were slightly lower but the general tone showed some tendency toward recovery. New York Danish seed at western New York shipping points ranged $60 to $75 and closed at mostly $60 to $70 per ton bulk f. o. b. compared with $65 last week. Most consuming markets held around $65 to $90. Wisconsin Holland seed closed in Chicago $5 to $10 lower at $50 to $60 per ton bulk. Haulings were still light at Florida shipping points and little price change was shown. Charleston Wakefield in the Sanford district was quoted at $1 to $1.25 per 1½ bushel hamper f. o. b. cash track, while the Fort Lauderdale section quoted barrel crates at $2.25 to $2.40. Consuming markets ranged steady at $1.50 to $2.25 for the 1½ bushel hampers. California Winningstadts closed in Chicago at $2.50 to $3.75 per 75-pound crate, compared with $3.50 to $4 last week.

Onions Advance at Close.

Yellow varieties of onions at western New York shipping points ranged mostly steady at $5.25 to $5.50 per 100 pounds sacked f. o. b. shipping points, but closed higher at $5.75 to $6. Consuming markets held at $5.40 to $6.25. Middlewestern yellow onions in most markets were quoted at $5.50 to $6.25. Chicago still ranged below other markets at $4.50 to $5.25. California Australian browns ranged steady in Chicago at $4.75 to $5.50 per 100 pounds sacked. Spanish Valencias in Eastern markets showed little change, ranging $5 to $5.50 per case of approximately 120–130 pounds. The lower price for Spanish onions per pound basis compared with domestic stock is due to the heavy supplies of imported stock and a preference in several leading markets for a medium size onion rather than for the large Valencia.

Apples Show Price Gains.

Good apple stock at western New York shipping points showed little change in prices. Baldwins A 2½ still ranging $7.50 to $8 per barrel f. o. b. from cold storage, but a few sales of fancy stock closed at $8 to $8.25. New York jobbing range showed little change, but closing prices were $8 to $8.50 compared with $9 last week. The Chicago market closed 50 cents higher at $8.50 to $9. Southeastern York Imperials No. 1 were quoted in Baltimore at $8 per barrel, compared with $7.50 to $8 last week. Middlewestern Ben Davis showed little change in prices in most middlewestern jobbing markets, ranging $6.75 to $7.75, but Chicago advanced about 50 cents, reaching $7. Northwestern extra fancy boxed Winesaps at Yakima shipping points were mostly steady at $2.50 to $2.75 per box, cars f. o. b. usual terms, but closed higher at $3, and the Wenatchee section quoted $2.85 to $3.15. Consuming markets for this stock closed about 25 cents higher at $3.25 to $4. Northwestern extra fancy Jonathans closed in most markets at $3 to $3.75, compared with $3 to $3.50 last week. Exports of apples for November, 1919, were 213,270 barrels, for December, 142,806, and for January this year, 161,157, giving a total of 517,233 cars for the three months.

Other Fruits and Vegetables.

New Jersey and Delaware yellow sweet potatoes were slightly lower in most consuming markets, ranging $2.25 to $2.75 per bushel hamper. Tennessee Nancy Halls showed little change, ranging generally $1.85 to $2.25, but Kansas City quoted $1.40 to $1.65. Florida Golden self-blanching celery in producing sections ranged 25 to 50 cents lower at $2.25 to $2.50 per 10-inch crate of 4–6 dozen bunches. Heavy haulings were reported in the Sanford district. Consuming markets closed about 25 cents lower at $3.25 to $4.

CAR-LOT SHIPMENTS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Commodity.	Week of Feb. 22–28, inclusive.		February.		January.		December.		Season to Feb. 29.	
	This season.	Last season.	1920	1919	1920	1919	1919	1918	1920	1919
Apples:										
Boxed	597	288	2,447	1,233	2,725	1,052	3,128	3,088	37,212	24,598
Barreled	389	370	1,488	2,340	1,109	2,732	1,725	3,160	35,638	41,924
Cabbage	601	562	2,344	2,017	1,842	2,182	1,315	1,371	25,491	30,130
Cauliflower	70	105	319	634	765	442	396	156	1,981	1,865
Celery	373	211	1,016	546	850	616	1,085	1,013	7,491	6,768
Dry beans	96	105	419	356	659	692	741	862	4,172	3,905
Grapefruit	351	251	1,284	979	1,242	1,041	724	696	5,563	4,894
Lemons	216	153	825	622	521	568	184	724	2,811	3,474
Lettuce	412	192	1,533	717	1,886	767	891	628	4,855	2,286
Mixed and bunched vegetables	221	188	847	727	1,205	658	1,056	1,137	2,423	1,543
Onions	277	392	1,088	1,213	1,212	1,488	980	1,017	18,935	21,214
Oranges	1,363	1,344	5,566	4,345	5,487	6,664	6,976	7,148	22,027	23,012
Sweet potatoes	198	212	906	939	1,305	1,123	1,433	1,232	12,859	9,555
Tomatoes	101	57	337	109	190	39	31	23	574	163
White potatoes	1,813	2,026	7,854	8,931	11,775	12,650	8,637	8,757	134,412	138,364
Total	7,111	6,456	28,303	25,708	32,773	32,724	29,300	30,012	316,417	313,695

Incomplete.

PRICES TO JOBBERS OF CERTAIN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

POTATOES, No. 1 white.

(Sacked, per 100 pounds.)

Market.	Week ending— Mar. 1, 1920.	Week ending— Feb. 23, 1920.	One year ago
New York		[1] $4.30–$4.45	[1] $2.05–$2.20
Baltimore		4.00–4.20	2.00–2.10
Boston		4.40–4.50	2.10–2.15
Chicago	[2] $4.45–$4.60	[2] 4.25–4.50	[2] 1.70–1.75
Kansas City	[2] 4.70	[2] 4.60	[2] 1.50–1.55
St. Louis	4.60–4.70	4.25–4.50	1.55–1.70
West N. Y.[3]	4.50–4.80	4.27	1.87
Wis., Mich.[3]	4.30–4.50	4.10–4.25	1.43–1.50

SWEET POTATOES, Yellows, New Jersey and Tennessees.

(Bushel hampers.)

New York	$2.65–$2.85	$2.65–$2.85	$2.50–$3.50
Baltimore	2.25–2.40	2.00–2.15	3.00–3.15
Boston	2.50	2.50	3.00
Chicago	2.75–3.00	1.85–2.00	2.75–3.00
Kansas City	1.90–2.00	1.40–1.50	2.50
St. Louis	1.75–2.00	1.90–2.00	2.75

APPLES, New York Baldwins, A 2½.

(Barrels.)

New York	$9.00–$9.25	$9.00	$9.50–$10.00
Baltimore	[4] 8.00–8.25	[4] $7.50–8.25	10.25–10.50
Boston	[5] 8.00–8.50	[5] 7.50–8.00	9.00–10.00
Chicago	8.50–9.00	8.00–8.50	9.00–9.50
Kansas City	[6] 6.75–7.00	[6] 6.75–7.00	[6] 8.00
St. Louis	[6] 8.00	[6] 7.00–7.50	10.50–11.00
West N. Y.[3]	8.00–8.25	7.75–8.00	10.00

APPLES, Northwestern Jonathans, Spitzenbergs, and Winesaps, Extra fancy.

(Boxes.)

New York	$3.75–$4.00	$3.25–$3.50	$4.00–$4.25
Boston		3.25–3.50	4.25
Chicago	3.00–3.25	3.00–3.25	4.50–5.00
Kansas City	3.00–3.25	3.00–3.25	4.50
St. Louis			4.00–4.05
F.o.b. N.W. shipping points	3.00–3.15	2.75–2.85	3.60–3.75

ONIONS, No. 1. Yellow and red.

(Sacked, per 100 pounds.)

New York	$6.50	$6.00	$3.50–$3.75
Baltimore	$5.75–6.25	$5.25–5.75	4.50–4.75
Boston	6.00	6.00–6.25	4.50–4.75
Chicago	4.50–5.00	4.50–5.00	4.50–5.00
Kansas City	5.50–5.75	5.00–5.25	
St. Louis	5.25–5.50	4.50–4.75	4.75–5.25
West N. Y.[3]		5.25	4.00–4.50

CABBAGE, Danish and Holland Seed.

(Bulk, per ton.)

New York	$90.00	$75.00–$80.00	$40.00–$45.00
Baltimore		65.00–75.00	40.00
Boston	[7] $4.00–5.00	[7] 6.00–6.25	[7] 2.50–3.00
Chicago	50.00–60.00	60.00–65.00	40.00
Kansas City	[1] 4.00–4.50	[1] 5.00	[1] 2.50
St. Louis	[8] 60.00	85.00–90.00	35.00–40.00
West N. Y.[3]		60.00–75.00	30.00–40.00

[1] Bulk per 100 pounds.
[2] Car-lot sales.
[3] F. o. b. shipping point.
[4] Virginia York Imperials.
[5] New England Baldwins.
[6] Middlewestern Ben Davis.
[7] Bulk per barrel.
[8] Texas Early Flat Dutch.

TOMATO NEWS SERVICE.

A temporary field station will be opened by the United States Bureau of Markets about March 3 or 4 at Miami, Fla., for the duration of the tomato shipping season. This station will collect and distribute information relative to f. o. b. prices and market conditions, quality and condition of the stock moving to market, and any other data pertaining to the marketing of the tomato crop. It will distribute general market information also, giving the car-lot receipts, stock on hand, market prices, and conditions of tomatoes in the principal consuming and distributing markets of the United States. Local growers and others interested in the marketing of Florida tomatoes may secure such information or assistance as may be available by applying direct to the Branch Office, Bureau of Markets, Miami, Fla.

MINNESOTA POTATOES ACTIVE.

Since about the middle of February the demand for Minnesota potatoes has shown steady increase, resulting in a gradual gain in price. As conditions in shipping sections are described to a Minneapolis representative of the Bureau of Markets, this demand has been greater relatively for seed stock than for table stock, but in both cases a great many more potatoes could have been sold, had the cars been available for immediate or prompt shipment. On the whole, the asking prices have been somewhat higher than the actual sales, because the dealers have had little hope of being able to move much stock. They worked on the assumption that the few cars they could move might find buyers who had to have the stock at once and were willing to pay more than the nominal market price. This has had a tendency to strengthen the local situation despite occasional market weakness at Chicago.

"Earlier in the season," continues the local representative, "quite a large quantity of potatoes, especially seed stock, was sold for future delivery. At the time this stock should have been delivered the market was considerably higher and the demand for cars to load was far in excess of the supply. Naturally the dealers were anxious to roll cars containing potatoes be sold on the high market instead of the seed stock which had been sold much cheaper a few months before. This meant that some dealers at least, were rolling high-priced stock in spite of the fact that they were receiving urgent demands for delivery on cheaper seed potatoes. The explanation offered that cars were not available to ship this seed stock has failed to satisfy the southern dealers, because they know that cars have been available for a considerable quantity of higher-priced table stock. As a result, box cars are being loaded.

"The demand for Triumphs, especially for rolling stock or immediate shipment, has been in excess of the available supply. The trade here feels that Triumphs are pretty well cleaned up, and most of the dealers who have any of this stock on hand, are inclined to hold for higher prices.

"There is considerable speculation as to the amount of potatoes still held in Minnesota. According to the latest crop estimates Minnesota has only 80 per cent of last season's crop. Telegraphic reports state that 23,000 cars were moved last year. Assuming the same ratio for shipments as for the crop, 80 per cent of this would be 18,400 cars, leaving from 500 to 600 cars yet to move. Evidently this assumption is not correct, because admittedly there are a great many more cars than that. The trade feels that the available commercial crop this year is very little if any shorter than last year, and that the high prices will draw out for shipment a larger per cent of the total production. There are said to be from 3,500 to 4,000 cars yet to move, although one of the larger dealers estimates as high as 5,000. The Red River Valley shippers, including those on the Dakota side, expect to move 1,200 cars. The statement in the January Crop Reporter that approximately three-fourths of the remaining potatoes are still in the hands of the grower is conceded by the dealers to be correct.

"The local feeling is that the potato season will wind up strong this spring. This opinion seems to be based largely on apparent shortage in the Western States, this shortage being emphasized by many orders received for Minnesota stock. A liberal supply of cars would no doubt weaken the market, at least temporarily. The early freeze last fall caught some stock, particularly in the northern part of the State, and our first zero weather found quite a large number of rolling cars unprepared. On the whole, however, so far the season has been very satisfactory from the standpoint of both growers and dealers."

CHICAGO POTATO MARKET.

Car Shortage and Seed Shipments Limit Supplies of Table Stock.—Car-lot Prices Advance.

Rather liberal shipments of a week ago gave rise to predictions that by the end of this week a sharp break might be expected in the Chicago market. The reverse was the case, contrary to general expectation because receipts decreased materially.

This is doubtless accounted for largely by the fact that a substantial portion of shipments for the past week or ten days, particularly from Minnesota, are of seed stock. The railroad embargo in Minnesota has cut off a large amount of stock that would ordinarily come to Chicago, and has created much adverse criticism on the part of certain potato dealers, who declare that it is unfair to the man who filled his seed-stock orders in due season while the more avaricious dealer neglected his seed orders and shipped table stock on a strong market. The man who shipped his seed orders along with his orders or consignments of table stock, must now wait for the embargo to be lifted (having no more seed stock to ship), while the other fellow gets out his seed stock.

To-day's supply (Feb. 27) was but 79 cars—far below normal—and the market, acting in sympathy, advanced rather sharply to $4.60 on northern bulk and $4.10 to $4.50 on sacked. Except when the outside demand is very strong, bulk brings a premium over sacked stock in this market, the reason being well known to most dealers. Idaho stock in past years has brought a substantial premium over northern stock on this market, but the premium is decreasing because the demand is less active than in former years. This may be due to the fact that northern States are grading better, or that Idaho stock in past years sold more on its reputation and general appearance than on real quality. At any rate it has become somewhat of a drug upon the market. A great deal of Idaho stock, probably as much as from all other States combined, has gone into cold storage because the largest receipts happened to hit an unfavorable market.

The Chicago market has been fluctuating between $4 and $5, mostly around $4.50 since the first if the year. It has been a very profitable year for dealers with warehouses, and for the farmers who held beyond the middle of November. However, the operators who have been buying from day to day have had much to contend with, their profits on the whole probably not exceeding the usual commission on consigned stock. The severe winter has also heaped upon the dealer an added expense, and has caused an unusually large number of rejections of cars sold out of Chicago, because of arrival in frozen condition.

Fully two-thirds of the late potatoes coming to Chicago are Rurals (round whites), and such stock is the market standard. Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota furnish the greater portion of supplies. Michigan stock usually runs a little better than that from the other two States, and this year the difference is a little more pronounced than in former years. The eastern stock reaching Chicago is negligible.

(See pages 158-9 for additional notes on fruits and vegetables.)

COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS OF APPLES, 1914-1920.[1]

Boxed Apples.

Date.	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19	1919-20
	Boxes.	*Boxes.*	*Boxes.*	*Boxes.*	*Boxes.*	*Boxes.*
October 1						679,146
October 15		1,060,276	1,081,216	1,168,519	771,121	2,058,552
November 1		1,789,274	2,189,753	2,215,979	2,512,541	4,241,245
November 15		2,757,013	3,397,535	3,801,845	3,933,691	6,688,663
December 1	4,143,206	3,681,557	3,977,227	4,482,790	4,945,472	7,792,534
December 15					5,308,542	8,607,265
January 1	1,091,351	3,209,503	4,355,723	5,534,220	5,136,726	8,508,070
February 1	3,141,132	2,738,109	3,790,499	5,191,876	4,204,628	7,277,099
March 1	2,323,469	2,096,432	2,616,027	3,763,621	2,430,823	
April 1	1,341,229	1,267,933	1,504,496	2,368,991	1,409,828	
May 1	525,307	708,663	795,797	965,657	545,359	
June 1	142,199	257,844	246,408	172,280	169,869	

Barreled Apples.

Date.	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19	1919-20
	Barrels.	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*	*Barrels.*
October 1						824,264
October 15		1,671,942	1,207,472	1,310,548	1,471,731	2,301,431
November 1		3,092,556	2,529,821	2,557,599	2,914,828	3,108,246
November 15		3,512,178	3,157,095	2,921,904	3,362,360	3,382,625
December 1	3,317,059	4,213,203	3,166,301	3,195,027	3,279,820	3,325,568
December 15					3,104,050	3,010,337
January 1	2,929,411	3,743,055	2,689,249	2,755,784	2,581,949	2,692,731
February 1	2,437,611	3,323,650	2,121,206	2,226,324	1,703,672	2,095,100
March 1	1,716,430	2,543,034	1,560,042	1,575,372	961,633	
April 1	896,041	1,560,965	1,043,606	902,741	485,516	
May 1	299,111	798,701	542,559	355,701	197,927	
June 1	69,812	217,586	183,159	101,403	68,141	

[1] The reports for the first three seasons are incomplete, as a number of concerns did not report their holdings. For the last three seasons the quantities given include an estimate of the holdings of a few concerns that failed to report.

SEEDS

MARKET QUIET DURING WEEK.

Inactive and Lower During Month.

The seed market during the week ending February 28 continued quiet and prices on red clover and timothy showed further declines from the previous week, or were not as firm. While a few cities reported small advances in one or two kinds of seeds, none of the seeds included in the accompanying table could be considered higher than a week ago. Apparently the small dealers are marking time until the weather becomes more settled and a larger proportion of the farmers begin to buy. Large seedsmen anticipate a depletion of their stocks, which are said to be smaller than normal, by a rush of business in March.

During the month of February the seed business was more or less at a standstill except for back orders that had been received during January. Local and regional freight embargoes made necessary by inclement weather and uneven distribution of cars retarded shipments and caused considerable anxiety among seedsmen and others, but by the end of February shipping conditions were much improved, although reports of local embargoes or difficulty in obtaining enough cars were still being received.

Declines in the grain market, in the rate of exchange, inclement weather affecting transportation, and a general reaction following the steady upward trend of seed prices during January undoubtedly had a marked influence in depressing prices of many kinds of field seeds. The following kinds were quoted at either lower or somewhat weaker prices at the end of February than at the end of January: Red clover, alsike clover, timothy, redtop, brome grass, Sudan grass, forage and grain sorghums, cowpeas, white field beans, oats, and buckwheat. Prices on white clover, crimson clover, alfalfa, orchard grass, millets except Japanese, Canada field peas, and soy beans remained at the same level as a month ago, while sweet clover, Kentucky bluegrass, Japanese millet, and rape made small gains, mostly 25 to 50 cents per 100 pounds. The decline in red clover seed prices during the month amounted to about $1.50 per 100 pounds, in alsike clover about 75 cents, although ranges in alsike price-declines from nothing to $2 were noted in the different cities. Timothy declined about 50 cents and the forage and grain sorghums declined 25 to 50 cents. In the case of a few kinds of seeds, particularly redtop, orchard grass, Sudan grass, hairy vetch, and soy beans, it was difficult to determine whether an advance or a decline in prices had occurred during the month because some cities indicated increases and some decreases. It is thought, however, that the comparison of prices in February with those in January, as summarized above, holds true in general.

The imports of red clover seed during February were unusually large, being over 3,000,000 pounds, as shown in the accompanying import table. The imports of alfalfa were also liberal, being more than 1,500,000 pounds.

Owing to the shortage of the olive crop of Italy, it is said that the supply will not even suffice for the needs of the Provinces that are the largest producers. The deficiency will be made up by the importation of seed oils.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF FIELD SEEDS, FEBRUARY 28.

Prices given are for high qualities of seed offered by seedsmen. Obviously it is impossible to give prices that represent the same quality and origin of seed in each of the cities.

[In dollars per 100 pounds, except seed grains, which are per bushel.]

Kind of seed.	New York.	Baltimore.	Richmond.	Buffalo.	Toledo.	Louisville.	Chicago.	Minneapolis.	St. Louis.	Memphis.	Kansas City.	Denver.	Salt Lake City.	Seattle.	Average for U. S. Same date last year.
Clovers:															
Red clover	57.00	56.00	58.75	58.00	57.65	60.00	56.50	58.50	50.00	59.50	59.00	.....	60.00	62.00	41.00
Alsike clover	57.50	58.00	50.00	58.50	58.35	60.00	57.50	59.50	61.00	61.50	60.00	59.00	60.00	62.00	30.50
White clover	65.00	55.00	62.00	60.00	65.00	60.00	60.00	66.00	61.00	64.00	63.00	60.50	65.00	68.00	48.00
Crimson clover	12.50	12.00	13.00	.....	.....	13.50	13.00	.....	16.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20.00
Sweet clover	36.00	36.00	36.00	37.00	38.00	38.00	35.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	36.00	36.00	.....	23.50
Bur clover (hulled)	.....	28.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28.00	28.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	15.00
Lespedeza	.....	30.00	30.00	.....	.....	30.00	.....	.....	29.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28.00
Alfalfa	38.00	40.00	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	42.00	46.00	44.00	46.00	42.00	42.00	44.00	43.00	21.00
Grasses:															
Timothy	14.75	14.50	14.75	14.50	14.60	14.50	13.75	14.00	14.50	14.75	14.50	15.00	14.00	18.00	10.65
Redtop	19.00	19.00	20.50	20.00	21.60	21.00	18.00	22.00	21.50	23.00	21.00	22.00	20.00	25.00	14.00
Kentucky bluegrass	29.00	28.00	29.00	28.00	31.00	31.00	29.00	31.00	31.00	29.00	31.00	31.00	31.50	35.00	23.00
Orchard grass	24.00	25.00	26.00	25.50	27.50	26.00	23.00	26.00	28.00	28.00	27.00	29.00	28.00	30.00	27.75
Meadow fescue	.....	.....	37.00	.....	.....	.....	35.00	38.00	.....	.....	35.00	36.00	.....	.....	24.50
Bromus inermis	31.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30.00	28.00	.....	.....	31.00	30.50	.....	.....	23.50
Millets:															
Golden millet	6.00	5.50	5.75	5.50	6.00	8.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.75	5.00	5.75	6.50	7.50	5.50
Common millet	5.00	3.50	4.75	.....	.....	.....	3.75	3.35	4.00	.....	3.50	3.75	.....	.....	4.00
Siberian millet	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.75	3.50	4.00	.....	3.50	3.75	5.50	.....	5.25
Hungarian millet	8.00	6.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.25
Japanese millet	15.00	.....	.....	14.00	.....	.....	.....	12.00	12.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5.25
Broom-corn millet	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.75	3.50	.....	.....	3.50	3.75	.....	.....	3.85
Sorgos ("cane"):															
Amber sorgo	.....	3.75	4.25	.....	.....	4.00	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.85	2.50	3.00	.....	.....	4.25
Orange sorgo	.....	3.75	4.35	.....	.....	4.00	3.25	.....	3.75	4.15	2.75	.....	.....	.....	4.25
Sumac sorgo	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4.00	.....	.....	.....	4.25	2.75	.....	.....	.....	6.00
Grain sorghums:															
Kafir	.....	.....	4.75	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.25	.....	.....	3.00	.....	.....	.....	3.75
Milo	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.00	.....	.....	.....	3.75
Feterita	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.25	.....	.....	.....	4.25
Sudan grass	.....	.....	14.00	.....	.....	14.00	12.75	13.75	14.00	15.00	13.00	11.50	.....	18.00	14.50
Rape	11.50	11.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.50	11.50	12.00	11.50	12.50	11.00	.....	12.50	10.00	10.50
Vetches:															
Hairy vetch	29.00	28.00	30.50	30.00	32.00	.....	32.50	28.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30.00	18.75
Common vetch	8.50	9.00	11.25	12.00	12.00	.....	10.00	9.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11.00	8.00
Peas:															
Canada field peas	6.25	6.00	.....	6.00	6.25	.....	5.75	5.75	7.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.00	5.50
Cowpeas	.....	9.00	10.00	11.50	10.00	10.00	10.00	12.50	12.50	10.50	12.00	.....	.....	.....	5.75
Beans:															
Soy beans	.....	8.00	8.30	10.50	.....	9.00	12.50	10.50	10.00	9.00	10.00	.....	.....	.....	5.25
White field beans	.....	8.00	.....	.....	7.00	.....	7.10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.75
Velvet beans	.....	.....	5.75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	5.25
Cotton seed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	7.25
Seed potatoes	.....	5.25	5.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4.50	.....	6.00	.....	.....	2.85
Seed grains:															
Seed corn	.....	.....	3.00	2.50	3.25	3.50	3.00	2.75	2.50	3.25	2.75	3.35	.....	4.50	2.00
Seed wheat	.....	3.75	.....	4.60	4.00	.....	3.75	3.65	2.75	.....	.....	3.30	.....	4.20	2.30
Seed oats	.....	1.15	1.25	1.25	.....	1.15	1.05	1.15	1.25	1.25	1.30	1.70	.....	1.45	.95
Seed barley	.....	2.20	.....	2.00	2.00	.....	1.80	2.00	2.00	.....	.....	2.65	.....	2.15	1.40
Seed rye	.....	1.75	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.30	2.30	1.85	.....	.....	2.65	.....	2.25	2.15
Seed buckwheat	.....	1.80	.....	2.00	2.00	.....	1.95	1.80	2.25	.....	2.00	.....	.....	.....	2.10

IMPORTS OF FORAGE PLANT SEEDS.

Permitted Entry into the United States Under the Seed Importation Act.

[Reported by the Seed Laboratory of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.]

Kind of seed.	Month of February.			8 months ending February 29.		
	1920	1919	1918	1920	1919	1918
	Pounds.	*Pounds.*	*Pounds.*	*Pounds.*	*Pounds.*	*Pounds.*
Alfalfa	1,588,500	.....	100	10,943,800	77,000	24,600
Bluegrass:						
Canada	28,500	47,000	181,900	403,200	333,800	672,800
Kentucky	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,700
Bromegrass, awnless	15,100	.....	.....	141,000	.....	.....
Clover:						
Alsike	414,700	767,400	527,700	5,076,500	5,008,900	1,958,100
Crimson	448,800	.....	2,000	5,852,100	308,100	1,220,500
Red	3,108,000	1,400	700	12,338,800	129,200	127,600
White	84,100	.....	.....	172,300	.....	52,700
Clover mixtures:						
White and alsike	.....	3,000	.....	21,700	74,300	30,200
Red and alsike	.....	.....	.....	700	900	.....
Alsike and timothy	18,000	75,700	3,100	236,700	199,500	16,800
Timothy, alsike and white	900	.....	.....	900	.....	.....
Fescue, meadow	2,000	.....	.....	2,800	.....	.....
Millet:						
Broom-corn	.....	.....	4,400	225,400	.....	235,200
Hungarian	77,300	6,800	.....	103,100	118,600	9,000
Mixtures: Grass	.....	.....	.....	100	100	.....
Orchard grass	471,500	.....	.....	2,338,300	.....	57,600
Rape	.....	121,000	545,000	4,891,000	436,800	10,414,100
Redtop	6,000	100	.....	6,800	4,300	2,200
Ryegrass:						
English	225,400	147,800	155,800	1,537,600	636,000	872,500
Italian	111,500	8,900	37,500	812,000	127,900	339,600
Timothy	.....	8,700	1,200	4,300	75,600	1,300
Vetch:						
Hairy	101,700	45,300	15,200	455,200	249,600	201,800
Spring	100,800	64,400	.....	383,000	317,300	.....

RETAIL PRICES OF FIELD SEEDS OF HIGH QUALITY, FEB. 21.

[Dollars per 100 pounds, except seed grains, which are per bushel.]

Kind of seed.	N. and Mid. Atlantic Div.	Southeastern Division.	East. Central Division.	North Central Division.	West. Central Division.	North Pacific Division.
Clovers:						
Red clover	63.25	62.50	60.80	59.10	60.50	61.85
Alsike clover	63.65	63.00	61.75	59.50	61.00	62.35
White clover	69.60	65.00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Crimson clover	17.55	15.00	17.85	.....	.....	24.30
Sweet clover	38.85	40.60	39.50	39.25	38.35	37.00
Alfalfa	49.05	50.00	46.20	47.85	43.75	49.05
Grasses:						
Timothy	16.10	16.00	16.00	15.40	15.00	17.35
Redtop	23.15	22.50	23.35	24.50	22.75	25.85
Ky. bluegrass	33.35	32.15	32.65	33.95	35.00	36.70
Orchard grass	32.20	32.15	29.35	30.60	30.35	34.20
Millets:						
Golden millet	8.15	8.50	7.05	5.35	6.10	9.75
Common millet	8.00	6.00	5.95	4.59	5.00	7.00
Siberian millet	.....	.....	6.50	4.75	.....	8.09
Sorgos ("Cane"):						
Amber sorgo	6.40	6.50	5.70	5.60	4.00	9.00
Orange sorgo	8.30	7.00	5.05	5.00	4.55	9.00
Kafir	.....	.....	4.90	4.90	.....	8.99
Rape	15.55	17.00	14.25	14.75	15.00	15.50
Vetch, hairy	30.65	37.50	32.50	26.20	.....	24.85
Peas:						
Canada field	.....	.....	7.85	8.25	.....	8.25
Cowpeas	10.05	10.00	11.20	11.35	13.10	13.90
Beans:						
Soy beans	10.75	10.00	11.35	12.85	12.00	16.10
White field	.....	.....	11.25	9.75	10.85	10.45
Velvet beans	7.90	7.00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Seed potatoes	5.75	4.75	3.59	3.15	6.25	3.49
Seed grains:						
Corn	3.95	4.25	3.55	3.75	3.85	5.25
Wheat	3.65	3.75	3.25	3.20	3.50	3.20
Oats	1.50	1.50	1.15	1.15	1.20	1.50
Barley	2.65	2.75	2.20	1.75	2.00	2.20
Rye	2.90	3.25	2.15	2.00	2.00	2.15
Buckwheat	2.60	2.50	2.55	2.55	2.60	3.59

PRICE OF COWPEAS HIGH.

Factors Affecting Present Prices—Stabilizing Influence of the Large Supply of Velvet Beans.

The present price at which cowpeas are being quoted by shippers and dealers represents an almost unheard-of valuation for this commodity.

The short crop of cowpeas in 1919, together with the very small carryover of the 1918 crop on July 1, 1919, has resulted in a commercial supply this season which is little more than one-half that of last season. Although the production of cowpeas in 1919 was less than in 1918, the fact that the carryover in seedsmen's hands on July 1, 1919, was only 2,000,000 pounds, as compared with 9,800,000 on July 1, 1918, doubtless is an equally important factor affecting the present commercial supply.

Taking these facts into consideration and granting that the law of supply and demand ordinarily controls prices, it might seem to some that an abnormally high price is inevitable. There is, however, another factor which logically should affect the price of cowpeas, and which should not be overlooked, namely, the supply of velvet beans available for seed purposes. It is true that velvet beans can not be grown in many States where cowpeas are ordinarily grown, but it is also true that practically the entire acreage of velvet beans is to be found in those States having the largest acreage of cowpeas. In the latter area velvet beans bear practically the same relationship to the local system of farming as cowpeas.

Last spring the commercial supply of new-crop (1918 grown) cowpeas was not sufficient to supply the planting demand. Even with the large carryover of old-crop cowpeas, most of which was sold for seed purposes, many farmers were unable to obtain cowpeas for planting, and the wholesale selling price advanced from $5.50 per 100 pounds in the middle of February, 1919, to $7.50 per 100 pounds the latter part of May. With reference to velvet beans, the commercial quantity of new-crop seed of good germination available last spring was negligible, and this commodity sold at around $8.50 per 100 pounds during the month of May, the highest price since velvet beans have been of commercial importance in the South.

The quality of the 1919 crop velvet beans is very good, and the commercial supply available for seed purposes this season is ample to meet all reasonable demands. At the usual rate of seeding, a given quantity of velvet beans has a planting capacity four times that of cowpeas. On this basis of the relative planting capacity of each, the combined commercial supply of cowpeas and velvet beans available for seed this year is about 10 per cent larger than the commercial supply of these commodities last year. The ratio of the commercial supply of cowpeas to velvet beans, expressed in terms of the planting capacity of each at the usual rate of seeding, was, in 1918, 5 to 2 and in 1919, 10 to 3, while in 1920, it is about 3 to 5.

Seedmen's average wholesale selling price for velvet beans on February 28, 1920, was around $6 per 100 pounds for reclcaned stock and for cowpeas about $11 per 100 pounds. This is about 15 per cent higher for velvet beans and 100 per cent higher for cowpeas than on the same date last year. Another comparison: On this date last year the average price of cowpeas was 20 per cent higher than that of velvet beans, while this year it is 83 per cent higher.

To the thousands of farmers in the 10 principal cowpea-producing States, where velvet beans are, or can be, grown and made to serve a similar economic purpose in relation to agriculture in those States, which represents the greater value for planting purposes: Cowpeas at $11 per 100 pounds, or velvet beans at $6 per 100 pounds?

CANADIAN DAIRY INDUSTRY.

(Continued from page 148.)

period has been the most notable feature of Canadian dairy production. It is estimated that for 1919 the total quantity of condensed and evaporated milk will be very nearly 110,000,000 pounds, valued at approximately $20,000,000. The total quantity of milk powder produced during the year amounts to 5,323,537 pounds, valued at $1,662,352. There has also been a large increase in the manufacture of ice cream and in the consumption of milk in the towns and cities. There is even large per capita increase in the consumption of these products.

CONDENSED MILK MARKET.

Continued to Narrow Condensers' Operations During January.

Manufacturers of condensed and evaporated milk faced a difficult situation in January. Although the average wholesale selling price of condensed milk advanced 48 cents per case, the manufacturer was forced to meet an increased cost of raw material amounting to 8 cents per hundredweight for fluid milk and to over 90 cents for the quantity of sugar required in one case of condensed milk. With unsweetened evaporated milk the increase of 1 cent per case in the selling price failed to offset the 8 cents increase in the cost of the raw milk required in its manufacture. Confronted with such increased costs in the raw material, condensers generally maintained high asking prices, especially for the current make, thereby limiting demand. Export buying, with the exception of some business for European relief early in the month was extremely limited primarily because of unsatisfactory exchange rates and high prices. Some holders of condensed milk, in spite of the high cost, were forced through limited credit to shade prices in order to unload stocks, and under the existing twisted situation of high costs, heavy holdings, limited credit, and poor demand, practically all manufacturers were anxious to either keep stocks low or to reduce them. Unusual activity was developed in the sales organizations, and in some instances at least condensing operations were suspended in the effort to limit production.

Prices paid producers for 3.5 per cent milk at condenseries, December and January, with average proposed prices for February, 1920.

(Per 100 pounds.)

Geographic section.	December.	January.	February.
New England	$3.85	$3.86	$3.79
Middle Atlantic	3.74	3.76	3.59
South Atlantic	3.21	3.20	3.02
East North Central	3.61	3.57	3.35
West North Central	3.36	3.35	3.10
South Central	3.80	.....	.....
Western (North)	3.25	3.38	3.31
Western (South)	3.18	3.11	3.22
United States	3.51	3.59	3.48

Wholesale prices of condensed and evaporated milk, December, 1919, and January, 1920.

Geographic section.	Sweetened condensed, case of 14-ounce cans.		Unsweetened evaporated, case of 16-ounce cans.	
	December.	January.	December.	January.
New England	$8.12	$8.53	$6.17	$6.28
Middle Atlantic	8.32	8.59	6.50	6.55
South Atlantic	.....	.....	6.15	5.90
East North Central	8.10	8.53	6.38	6.31
West North Central	8.05	8.55	6.48	6.42
South Central	.....	.....	.....	.....
Western (North)	8.05	8.55	6.07	5.91
Western (South)	8.05	8.55	6.11	6.24
United States	8.09	8.57	6.32	6.33

Stocks and exports of condensed and evaporated milk.

	Feb. 1, 1920.	Jan. 1, 1920.	Feb. 1, 1919.
Total stocks of condensed and evaporated milk	*Pounds.* 106,986,199	*Pounds.* 122,916,554	*Pounds.* 74,102,322
Unsold stocks of condensed and evaporated milk	58,296,761	71,681,825	37,980,066
Unfilled orders for condensed and evaporated milk	29,215,277	34,521,839	16,580,036
	January, 1920.	December, 1919.	January, 1919.
Exports of condensed and evaporated milk from United States	34,071,021	76,783,397	40,789,433

Manufacturers' total stocks and unsold stocks on February 1 showed a material reduction under those held January 1. A corresponding decrease occured in the quantity of unfilled orders. The excess of unsold stocks over unfilled orders was reduced over 8,000,000 pounds during January.

The general sentiment of the market at the end of January tended toward price reductions of sufficient magnitude to stimulate demand, especially foreign, in an effort to unload stocks. Such a course probably entailed financial loss to many holders but was generally considered preferable to holding stocks under the uncertain existing economic situation.

GRAIN, HAY, AND FEED

HAY MARKET.

Eastern Markets Higher—Western Markets Lower.

The receipts of hay in the eastern markets remain light and prices have held steady or advanced. In the central western markets, however, the receipts of hay have been heavier and prices have continued to decline slowly. With more moderate weather in the East and any improvement in the car situation the heavy movement of hay would probably extend to the eastern markets and would be a factor which would likely influence the price in those markets.

Timothy.—Because of the scarcity of cars in the surplus timothy producing sections of the country, the movement of timothy has been light and the receipts in the tributary markets have been hardly equal to the demand. Prices held steady at Cincinnati and Chicago, but have advanced in the eastern markets, including Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Richmond.

Clover and Clover Mixed.—There is practically no change in the maket situation on clover and clover mixed hay. There are no surplus stocks and receipts are so light in several of the markets that no official quotations are given. No. 1 clover is sell- at about the price of No. 1 timothy in most of the markets, but at Cincinnati it is quoted at a premium of about $2. The demand is principally from the dairy interests and will probably be lighter as pasture becomes available.

Alfalfa.—The receipts of alfalfa continue heavy at Kansas City, Memphis and Omaha. There was not an urgent demand, and as the bulk of the receipts were of the lower grades the market was especially weak on the No. 2 and No. 3 grades.

Because of the decline in the price of alfalfa hay in the markets more hay will probably be available for the alfalfa meal mills, which are said to have been unable to manufacture meal profitably from the higher priced hay.

The recent showers in California have not materially lessened the demand for local and near-by hay, but it is stated that no further inquiries are being received by shippers in the Yakima Valley from that State. Western Washington dairymen and feeders are buying freely the hay being resold by Montana buyers.

Denver reports the supply of alfalfa in that section as being in excess of the demand.

Prairie.—The market situation on prairie hay remains weak, with only a limited demand. Receipts at Kansas City were 263 cars and at Chicago 86 cars. Minneapolis reports heavy receipts of the lower grades of prairie, which had a depressing effect upon that market. Shippers in the territory tributary to Minneapolis report that the continued cold weather has greatly reduced the stocks of hay, but shipments continue to arrive in unusually large numbers for that market.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF HAY AND FEED AT DISTRIBUTING MARKETS, FEB. 28.

[In dollars per ton.]

Commodity.	Buffalo.	Philadelphia.[1]	Baltimore.[1]	Richmond.	Atlanta.	New Orleans.	Memphis.[1]	Cincinnati.[1]	Chicago.[1]	St. Louis.[1]	Omaha.[1]	Kansas City.[1]	Minneapolis.	Denver.	San Francisco.
HAY (carload lots).															
Timothy and clover:															
No. 1 Timothy	38.00	46.00	43.00	40.00	42.00	39.50	37.50	36.25	34.00	26.00	.....	30.50	27.50	30.00	.....
Standard Timothy	.....	45.00	42.50	39.00	41.00	.....	.....	35.50	32.50	34.00	.....	30.00	.....	29.00	.....
No. 2 Timothy	37.00	44.00	42.00	38.50	40.00	38.50	35.50	35.00	31.00	32.00	.....	28.00	26.50	.....	.....
No. 1 Light Clover, mixed	.....	44.00	42.00	39.00	41.50	.....	36.50	36.00	32.50	32.00	.....	[2]30.50	.....	.....	.....
No. 1 Clover, mixed	.....	42.00	41.50	39.00	41.00	.....	36.00	35.50	31.00	32.00	.....	29.50	25.00	.....	.....
No. 1 Clover	.....	.....	.....	40.00	43.50	.....	.....	38.00	31.50	36.00	.....	.....	25.00	.....	.....
Alfalfa:															
No. 1 Alfalfa	.....	.....	.....	.....	42.50	.....	39.50	40.00	37.00	38.50	32.00	33.00	36.00	25.00	35.00
No. 2 Alfalfa	.....	.....	.....	.....	35.50	.....	33.50	37.00	30.00	32.00	30.00	21.50	35.00	21.00	.....
Prairie:															
No. 1 Upland	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22.00	26.00	21.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	.....
No. 1 Midland	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17.00	.....	19.00	[2]12.50	17.00	19.00	.....
Wheat and Oat Hay No. 1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	38.00
FEED (ton lots or more).															
Wheat bran:															
Spring	51.00	53.00	52.50	55.00	57.00	.....	.....	49.50	49.00	.....	.....	.....	44.50	44.00	.....
Soft Winter	52.00	54.00	56.00	58.00	57.00	45.00	49.50	49.00	48.50	.....	.....	44.00	.....	45.00	.....
Hard Winter	51.00	53.00	.....	56.00	56.50	.....	.....	49.00	48.50	.....	.....	43.00	.....	.....	.....
Wheat middlings:															
Spring	54.00	56.00	56.50	57.00	[2]64.00	.....	.....	55.00	54.00	.....	.....	.....	50.00	.....	.....
Soft Winter	55.00	.....	57.00	60.00	60.00	.....	57.00	56.00	53.00	.....	.....	52.00	.....	.....	.....
Hard Winter	54.00	58.00	.....	.....	60.00	.....	.....	56.00	53.00	.....	.....	51.00	.....	.....	.....
Rye middlings	52.00	55.00	.....	56.00	.....	.....	.....	53.00	52.50	.....	.....	.....	52.00	.....	.....
High protein meals:															
Linseed	.....	82.00	.....	88.00	.....	.....	.....	78.00	80.00	84.00	.....	85.00	80.00	100.00	.....
Cottonseed (41 per cent)	78.00	81.00	.....	85.00	78.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	83.00	.....	74.00	.....	83.00	.....
Cottonseed (36 per cent)	.....	.....	.....	.....	74.00	.....	.....	76.00	75.75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Peanut (36 per cent)	.....	.....	.....	.....	79.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	64.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
No. 1 Alfalfa meal (medium)	48.50	52.00	55.00	58.00	52.00	.....	49.00	47.00	46.00	.....	.....	[2]40.50	47.00	34.00	41.00
Velvet bean meal	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gluten feed	.....	78.00	67.50	80.00	.....	.....	.....	73.50	75.00	.....	.....	.....	78.00	.....	.....
Hominy feed	66.50	67.00	.....	65.00	70.00	.....	65.00	64.00	67.00	.....	.....	52.00	.....	.....	.....
Ground barley	70.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	70.00	67.50	.....	.....	.....	64.00	83.00	73.00
Beet pulp	65.00	65.00	65.00	70.00	70.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

[1] Hay quotations represent average of cash sales at these markets. [2] Nominal.

WHOLESALE FEED PRICES AT MANUFACTURING CENTERS.

[Per ton, bagged, carload lots.]

	Feb. 28.	Jan. 31.
Spring wheat bran:		
Minneapolis	$42.50	$43.00
Duluth	43.00	42.00
Hard winter bran:		
Kansas City	41.00	41.00
St. Louis	44.00	44.00
Soft winter wheat bran:		
Cincinnati	47.00	46.50
Baltimore	54.00	52.00
Richmond	54.00	52.00
Spring wheat middlings:		
Minneapolis	48.00	46.00
Duluth	48.00	46.00
Hard winter wheat middlings:		
Kansas City	47.00	49.00
St. Louis	50.00	50.00
Soft winter wheat middlings:		
Cincinnati	54.00	52.00
Baltimore	54.00	52.00
Richmond	55.00	54.00
Cottonseed meal (41 per cent protein):		
Memphis	69.50	76.00
Atlanta	71.00	77.00
Linseed meal:		
Amsterdam, N. Y. (31 per cent protein)	73.00	72.00
Minneapolis (34 per cent protein)	78.00	83.50
Milwaukee (31 per cent protein)	76.00	81.50
Alfalfa meal:		
Memphis	44.00	45.00
Kansas City	38.00	41.50
St. Louis	41.00	43.00
Gluten feed:		
Chicago	69.00	69.00
Buffalo	74.00	75.00

FEED MARKET FIRM.

On account of the general light stocks of wheat mill feeds and the curtailed output from the mills the market situation for the week ending February 28 is strong on these feeds and prices have advanced in practically all of the markets. High protein feeds, however, have not followed generally the advance of wheat mill feeds but a better demand is noted in several of the markets.

Alfalfa Meal.—On account of the light demand, particularly from the mixed feed manufacturers whose operations have been somewhat curtailed by the lack of sufficient molasses, the price of alfalfa meal has declined in several of the larger markets including St. Louis, Kansas City, and Memphis. The heavy receipts of alfalfa hay in these markets during the past few weeks, resulting in a decline in the price of that commodity, have probably also been a factor in the decline in the price of the meal.

Reports from mills in Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico indicate that but little more meal will be offered by the mills in those States. Many mills have closed for the season because all of the available hay has been milled and most of those still operating have sold all of their estimated output. Kansas mills appareutly still have sufficient hay and the lower prices at tributary markets will probably make more hay available for meal in that territory. It is stated that the high price of baled hay has made it impossible in some sections to obtain hay for meal because the small margin between the price of hay and meal has not been sufficient to allow profitable manufacture of meal.

Hominy Feed.—The demand for hominy feed is reported generally quiet and a decline of about $1 per ton is reported in several of the markets.

Gluten Feed.—There is a continued urgent demaud for gluten feed which still exceeds the supply. Several mills report that their demand is about twice their output but that the approach of the end of the feeding season will probably lessen the demand. Prices remain practically unchanged.

Linseed Meal.—The market situation on linseed meal is practically unchanged from the previous week. The eastern mills using Argentine seed are quoting lower prices than the mills using domestic seed. The protein content of this meal, however, is about 2 per cent less than the meal from

the domestic seed. Minneapolis reports a less urgent demand and a decline of about $1 per ton on 35 per cent meal. The mills are said to be far behind on their orders for meal, but the lack of export demand for oil is probably the factor most affecting the market. Jobbers are reported to be in a position to make prompt shipment.

Cotton Seed Meal.—Because of the very limited demand the price of cottonseed meal declined during the week. High grade meal is said to be firmly held but the low grade meal finds a slow market. Mills have apparently caught up with their orders as offers for prompt shipment are now being made. The principal markets report that practically all the sales are on small local orders.

The cotton seed cake market is very dull. It is stated that cake which had been shipped to Savannah for export is now being resold to interior markets and was offered during the past week at $60 per ton.

Velvet Bean Feed.—There is practically no demand for velvet bean feed except in localities close to the mills. Stocks in the markets are light, but ample, as dealers and consumers seem to prefer other feeds. It is being quoted at Atlanta at $18 per ton.

Wheat Mill Feeds.—The price of bran and middlings has advanced in practically all of the markets during the week, Memphis and Philadelphia being the only markets reporting prices stationary or declining. Stocks are not large at the latter market but a continued lack of shipping demand has held prices steady and at a lower level than the quotations from the western markets.

Mills throughout the country have greatly reduced their output because of the dullness of the flour market. This, together with the scarcity of cars, has caused the light receipts. The continued cold weather over the northern and eastern part of the country has caused a more or less urgent demand which with the light stocks and receipts is the principal cause of the higher prices.

GRAIN MARKET.

The chief factors in the general wheat situation of the United States are, first, the big reserves in all positions including stocks in farmers' hands; second, a very dull flour trade which is partly due to the inability of the mills to get cars; and, third, the continued big discount in foreign exchange which has brought the export wheat and flour trade almost to a standstill.

Demand for wheat by mills, particularly at Minneapolis, has of late seemed better than it really was, for the mills in many instances have bought wheat which they did not need in order to get the cars for shipping flour. Considerable wheat is in store at terminal markets which belongs to mills that have been unable to secure shipment, and unless the grain can be moved within a reasonable time the understanding is that it will be turned back to the Grain Corporation from which it was purchased.

The announcement of the Grain Corporation that it would again buy flour was not regarded as of great importance in the trade. Some of the spring-wheat mills ran only 5 to 10 per cent of capacity last week, and 25 per cent was exceptional. It was reported last week that the Government is being urged to permit the sale on credit of 10,000,000 barrels of flour held by the Grain Corporation to feed the starving people in the cities of Poland Austria-Hungary, Bohemia, and Armenia.

Five sailor cargoes of about 500,000 bushels Argentine wheat now en route to the United States were resold Friday, February 27, to the British Royal Commission on the basis of $2.52 per bushel and will be ordered to the United Kingdom. About half a million bushels of wheat at Gulf ports were reported sold to England during the week.

Considered from a market point of view, corn is regarded as in a class by itself; that is, the period of heavy movement to market has passed and there are no accumulations of importance at terminal markets. Therefore the industries must depend upon the day to day receipts. Reports from country points throughout the big corn surplus States show that neither farmers nor dealers are selling freely. On February 24 May corn in Chicago sold at the highest price since December, and February future sold at the highest price of the season. During February 275,000 bushels of corn were delivered on contracts in Chicago.

Although receipts of oats have been good, demand has been better. The result is that stocks at terminals are small and premiums for cash oats are abnormal. Or it might be said the futures are at abnormal discounts. Prices for May are many cents under cash prices and July futures are at an unusual discount under those for May.

Rye was relatively stronger at the seaboard than at interior markets. Early in the week it was reported that a million bushels had been sold for export. On Friday, Baltimore prices were the highest on the crop and were at a big premium over Chicago prices for May. Yet rye specialists in the Chicago markets estimate there is a large surplus in this country. The high prices at the seaboard are thought to be the result of lack of proper distribution rather than of actual scarcity. Rye futures were depressed by reports that France could buy Argentine wheat cheaper than American rye.

THE CANADIAN FLAX SITUATION.

Unless a phenomenal development occurs in the flax fiber industry the position of the United States in regard to flaxseed will not be independent. Since 1909 the United States has imported from 5 to 15 million bushels annually, having had an adequate production in 1912 only, with 28,073,000 bushels. The other chief flax-producing countries are Canada, Argentina, India, China, and Russia. Of these, only Canada and Argentina have been supplying this country in quantity; a small amount, however, was imported from Asia.

England has a slight geographic advantage over the United States in importing Argentine seed. Many of our crushing centers are near Canadian sources of seed and importation from that country is attractive. Canadian production areas are so near those of the United States that they are subject in part to the same reverses; and therefore years of high production in Canada are those of high production in the United States. The logical export markets of Canada are the United States and Great Britain. In 1913, after the bumper crop of 1912 in the United States, the domestic crop of 17,853,000 bushels and the Canadian crop of 17,539,000 bushels more than supplied the needs of this country. Prices were low, from $1.23 to $1.54 per bushel at markets in the United States, with a duty of 20 cents per bushel against foreign seed. The total imports of the United States in 1913 from all sources were less than a third of the exports of Canada. Canada had a poor market, but now the United States can probably take all her offerings any season.

The present shortage in world production, resulting in high prices, means stimulation

(Continued on page 159.)

GRAIN EXPORTS BY GRADE.

Week Ending Feb. 28.

[bushels; 000 omitted.]

Subclass and grade.	New York.	Philadelphia.	Baltimore.	Other Atlantic and Gulf ports.	Pacific ports.	Total for week.
WHEAT.						
No. 2 Amber Durum	69	....	....	....	....	69
Hard Winter:						
No. 1	....	31	....	....	....	31
No. 3	....	....	....	20	....	20
Total Hard Red Winter	....	31	....	20	....	51
Red Winter:						
No. 2	321	120	....	75	....	516
No. 3	....	....	....	561	....	561
Total Soft Red Winter	321	120	....	636	....	1,077
Mixed:						
No. 2	....	42	....	....	....	42
No. 3	....	94	....	....	....	94
Total mixed	....	136	....	....	....	136
Total, week ending Feb. 28, 1920	390	287	....	656	....	1,333
Total, week ending Feb. 21, 1920	50	280	90	448	....	868
BARLEY.						
Total, ungraded, week ending Feb. 28, 1920	58	....	....	....	....	58
Total, week ending Feb. 21, 1920	241	....	....	....	....	241
OATS.						
Total, No. 3, White Clipped, week ending Feb. 28, 1920	279	....	....	....	....	279
Total, week ending Feb. 21, 1920	198	....	....	....	....	198
CORN.						
Total, No. 3 mixed, week ending Feb. 28, 1920	17	77	....	....	....	94
Total, week ending Feb. 21, 1920	....	111	....	....	....	111
RYE.						
No. 2 Western	....	....	602	....	....	602
Ungraded	300	....	....	....	....	300
Total, week ending Feb. 28, 1920	300	....	602	....	....	902
Total, week ending Feb. 21, 1920	267	....	578	....	....	845
BUCKWHEAT.						
Total, ungraded, week ending Feb. 28, 1920	9	....	....	....	....	9

The total amount of grain in elevators in North Atlantic ports on February 21 was 9,032,187 bushels, or 49 per cent of the total capacity, a decrease of 4.5 per cent over the previous week at these ports. Stocks of grain in elevators at Gulf ports on February 21 amounted to 5,453,178 bushels, or 52.6 per cent of the total elevator capacity.

Market for Rye.—The Manufacturer's Association in Reval, Esthonia, desires to obtain quotations c. i. f. on 200 tons of rye flour or rye, cash to be paid during the time of delivery in England against shipping documents.

PRICE RELATION OF WHEAT AND MILL PRODUCTS.

Difference Between Cost of Raw Material and Selling Price of Products for the Years 1914 to 1919, Inclusive.

The trend of wheat and mill product prices from January, 1914, to the end of 1919, covering a period representing pre-war, war, and post-war conditions, is shown in the accompanying diagram. The shaded portion is intended to represent the difference in the current cash-market price of 4½ bushels of wheat and the resulting mill products. The differential shown here must not be interpreted as representing the gross profit in the milling of wheat; that can only be calculated from the difference between the price actually paid for the wheat and the price received for the resulting products for the reason that in any business where the law of supply and demand is the controlling factor of price determination the aim is to buy raw materials when the price is low and to sell the manufactured product when the price is high. In this scheme of doing business many days may elapse between the purchase of the wheat and the sale of the resulting products; consequently the difference in current prices is not a true indication of the margin of profit.

The prices shown by the curves represent neither the average daily nor weekly prices, but represent the average cash price prevailing for Tuesday of each week except when that day happened to be a holiday.

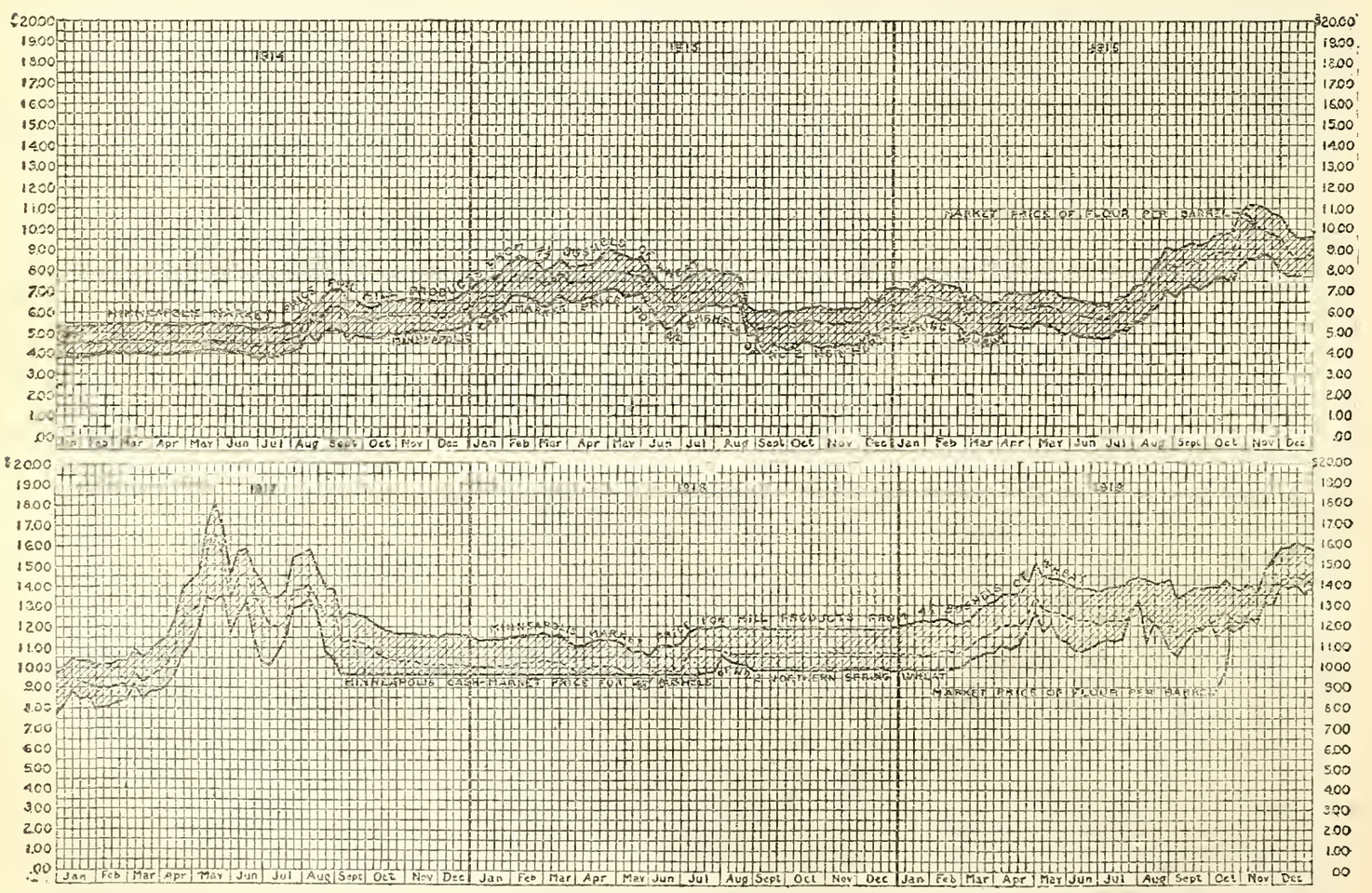
In determining the price differential between wheat and its mill products, 4½ bushels of wheat was chosen arbitrarily as being the approximate amount of normally sound wheat required for the production of 1 barrel of flour. The price of No. 2 Northern Spring was chosen because it was thought that that particular grade represented more nearly the average of the spring wheats than any other grade. The chart showing the market price of the mill products represents the current average wholesale price of standard patent flour (except during the period when the Government required the milling of straight flour only) plus the price of 74 pounds of standard middlings. These prices include the cost of the containers, wooden barrels for flour, and burlap sacks for middlings. The dotted line in the diagram represents the price of flour per barrel. The choosing of Standard Patent flour and Standard middlings as the basis of the price comparison between the raw material and mill products was an arbitrary matter; however, it is believed that these figures approximate actual values near enough for a fair comparison. The various grades of flour and the several kinds and grades of mill offals and their production in varying proportions under the many different conditions prevailing in milling, make it impossible to figure the true value of the resulting products except in individual cases.

During the period extending from the middle of 1914 to the present time, the prices of grain and mill products were much affected by conditions resulting from the World War. The law of supply and demand in the determination of prices during this period was unable to function normally because of the effect of the war upon commercial conditions; also during a portion of this period Governmental regulations were in effect, exercising more or less complete control over wheat and mill product prices.

Examination of the diagram shows that the price relation between the wheat and its total products is very consistent throughout, except for a slight increase in price differential for the last half of the six-year period shown. On the other hand, the relation existing between the price of wheat and flour is not so consistent, especially during the years 1918 and 1919 when a few instances are shown in which the unit flour price was lower than that for 4½ bushels of wheat.

Poland hopes to obtain during 1920 about 300,000 tons of wheat, rye, barley, and oats from her farmers by increasing the price paid to the producer and requisitioning supplies in proportion to the size of the farm and the productivity of the land. The most productive districts will be required to furnish from 66 to 265 pounds per acre; those not so productive from 44 to 155 pounds; farms still less productive from 33 to 88 pounds. The importation of grain, potatoes, and "fruits of the soil" is prohibited.

Differential between the Minneapolis Current Cash Price of Wheat and Wholesale Price of Mill Products for the years 1914 to 1919, inclusive.



COTTON

PRICES AND MOVEMENT OF AMERICAN COTTON.

Spots and Futures Advance.

Prices for both spots and futures for the week ending February 28 showed advances as compared with the closing prices of the previous week. The average price of Middling as determined from the quotations supplied by the 10 designated markets was 39.82 cents per pound on February 28 as compared with the closing price of last week of 39.64 cents per pound, and 26.33 cents per pound for the corresponding day last year. March and May future contracts showed relatively greater advances than did the later months. March future contracts on the New York cotton Exchange closed at 37.95 cents as compared with 36.52 cents last week and 22.05 cents for the corresponding day in 1919; and on the New Orleans Cotton Exchange they closed at 39 cents as compared with 37.48 cents last week and 23.58 cents for the corresponding day in 1919. May future contracts on the New York Cotton Exchange closed at 34.89 cents as compared with 34.33 cents last week and 21.19 cents for the corresponding day in 1919; and on the New Orleans Cotton Exchange they closed at 35.67 cents as compared with 34.84 cents last week and 21.63 cents for the corresponding day in 1919.

During the week March future contracts showed a net advance at New York of 143 points, closing at 37.95 cents, and a net advance of 152 points at New Orleans, where they closed at 39 cents.

It is reported that the reason for the sharp advance in March contracts was the realization by "shorts" of the danger of the near positions, which were selling at considerable discounts below the price of spot cotton.

Reports indicate that prices for spot cotton in the South are firm. It is reported also that there has been some decline in prices in the dry goods market, but that the retail trade continues very good.

The sales reported by the 10 designated spot markets for the week ending February 28 amounted to 68,625 bales as against 45,240 bales last week and 53,580 bales for the corresponding week in 1919. The sales for the week have been the largest recorded for several weeks.

Cotton Movement and Exports from Aug. 1 to Feb. 27.

[Information from commercial sources.]

	1919–20	1918–19
	Bales.	*Bales.*
Port receipts	5,334,297	3,737,989
Port stocks	1,444,051	1,396,841
Interior receipts	5,577,232	4,743,726
Interior stocks	1,276,887	1,513,617
Into sight	8,938,003	7,924,115
Northern spinners takings	1,998,641	1,394,716
Southern consumption	2,101,000	2,213,000
World's visible supply of American cotton	4,840,426	3,828,028

Figures at hand indicate that the exports for the week ending February 27 were 150,244 bales as against 125,536 bales last week and 96,408 bales for the corresponding week last year; the total exports from August 1, 1919, to February 27, 1920, amounted to 4,351,000 bales, against 2,915,000 bales in 1918–19 and 3,052,000 bales in 1917–18.

Spot Cotton Quotations.

Price of Middling spot cotton for February 28 and the commercial differences in price between Middling and other grades of American Upland cotton at each of the 10 markets named, together with the total number of bales sold during the week ending February 28 in each of these markets, as reported to the Bureau of Markets.

	Norfolk.	Augusta.	Savannah.	Montgomery.	New Orleans.	Memphis.	Little Rock.	Dallas.	Houston.	Galveston.	Average.
White Standards:	[1]On.	On.	On.	On.	On.	On.	On.	On.	On.	On.	On.
Middling Fair	300	350	350	275	275	350	225	300	450	450	333
Strict Good Middling	250	250	250	225	250	275	175	250	350	350	263
Good Middling	200	200	200	175	200	200	125	200	250	250	200
Strict Middling	100	100	100	100	125	100	100	100	150	150	113
Middling	**38.75**	**39.50**	**39.50**	**39.00**	**40.25**	**39.00**	**39.00**	**41.65**	**40.00**	**41.50**	**39.82**
	[1]Off.	Off.	Off.	Off.	Off.	Off.	Off.	Off.	Off.	Off.	Off.
Strict Low Middling	200	250	250	250	300	250	300	250	250	250	255
Low Middling	550	600	550	600	750	750	700	700	800	925	693
Strict Good Ordinary	800	800	800	850	1,075	1,050	900	1,100	1,200	1,200	978
Good Ordinary	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,300	1,450	1,100	1,300	1,500	1,600	1,235
Yellow Tinged:											
Good Middling	100	200	250	200	75	250	200	200	250	200	193
Strict Middling	200	400	350	300	150	400	350	300	350	300	310
Middling	400	600	500	450	350	450	500	500	500	450	470
Strict Low Middling	600	900	700	650	650	650	650	700	750	700	695
Low Middling	800	1,100	1,000	950	1,100	950	850	1,000	1,300	1,000	1,005
Yellow Stained:											
Good Middling	400	450	500	400	450	550	500	450	450	450	460
Strict Middling	600	650	650	600	575	650	650	600	550	550	608
Middling	800	800	800	800	700	700	750	700	700	700	745
Blue Stained:											
Good Middling	500	700	650	500	550	550	600	700	450	550	575
Strict Middling	600	800	750	650	625	650	750	800	550	650	683
Middling	800	900	900	800	750	900	850	900	700	770	825
Sales for week, bales	2,264	10,861	8,007	1,100	13,267	10,250	3,895	7,227	5,768	5,986	[2]68,625

[1] The differences are stated in terms of points or one-hundredths of a cent per pound. By "On" is meant that the stated number of points is to be added to the price of Middling and by "Off" is meant that the stated number of points is to be subtracted from the price of Middling.

[2] Total sales in the 10 markets.

Exports of cotton from Aug. 1 to Feb. 27.

To—	1919–20	1918–19	1917–18
	Bales.	*Bales.*	*Bales.*
Great Britain	2,318,000	1,389,000	1,775,000
France	443,000	449,000	400,000
Other countries	1,590,000	1,077,000	877,000

Stocks of Government-Classed Cotton at Future Markets.

Inspected cotton, Government-classed, in warehouses in the ports of New York and New Orleans on February 27, 1920, of the grades tenderable on future contracts made on the exchanges in those markets subject to section 5 of the United States cotton futures act as amended:

Grade.	New York.	New Orleans.
Middling Fair	1	13
Strict Good Middling	23	329
Good Middling	256	2,052
Strict Middling	632	3,452
Middling	1,159	4,573
Strict Low Middling	2,738	3,813
Low Middling	1,608	1,836
Good Middling Yellow Tinged	47	246
Strict Middling Yellow Tinged	111	171
Good Middling Yellow Stained	.....	2
Total	6,575	16,487

Cotton Seed.

Reports recently received by the Bureau of Markets giving cottonseed quotations on the basis of prime seed in car lots indicate the following prices at the points named:

	Per ton.		Per ton.
Charlotte, N. C.	$85	Pine Bluff, Ark.	$55–$64
Tarboro, N. C.	88	Texarkana, Ark.	43
Orangeburg, S. C.	90	Corinth, Miss.	55
Manning, S. C.	96	Dyersburg, Tenn., wagon lots	40–41
Spartanburg, S. C.	85–90	Shreveport, La.	75
Darlington, S. C.	80		

Long Staple Cotton.

A good demand was reported for extra staple cotton at New Orleans, and an active market with a good demand for the better grades with a freer movement for the low grades was reported at Memphis. Some of the sales reported at New Orleans and Memphis were as follows:

	Cents.
New Orleans:	
Good Ordinary, $1\frac{3}{16}$ inches	35
Middling, $1\frac{3}{16}$ to $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches	52
Middling to Strict Middling, $1\frac{3}{16}$ inches	55
Strict Middling, $1\frac{3}{16}$ inches	47
Memphis:	
Strict Low Middling (gray), $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches	50
Middling Tinges, $1\frac{1}{16}$ inches	42
Strict Low Middling, $1\frac{3}{16}$ inches	65
Strict Middling, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches	93

The premiums quoted in the New Orleans and Memphis markets for the staple lengths specified are given below. The figures are based on sales during the week ending February 28 and are for Middling cotton based on Middling short staple at 40.25 cents per pound in New Orleans and 39 cents per pound in Memphis:

Length.	New Orleans (points on Middling).	Memphis (points on Middling).
$1\frac{1}{16}$ inches	575	535
$1\frac{1}{8}$ inches	2,350	2,580
$1\frac{3}{16}$ inches	3,500	3,865
$1\frac{1}{4}$ inches	.....	4,500
$1\frac{5}{16}$ inches	.....	5,000
$1\frac{3}{8}$ inches	.....	5,850

Latest advices received indicate that Sea Island cotton of No. 2 grade or Extra Choice with average staple is quoted at 95 cents to $1 per pound at Savannah.

Latest telegraphic advices indicate that Pima American-Egyptian cotton of No. 2 to No. 3 grade is quoted at $1.10 per pound at Boston.

The latest quotations received for Egyptian cotton were $1.61\frac{7}{8}$ for Fully Good Sakellaridis and $1.54\frac{1}{4}$ for Good Fair on c. i. f. terms landed at Boston or New York.

FOREIGN MARKETS

LOW PRICE[1] FOR BRITISH WHEAT AFFECTS SUPPLY.

The following cablegram on the wheat prospects in the United Kingdom was received by the Department of State on February 27 from the American Consul General at Loudon:

"The Ministry of Agriculture views with concern the shrinkage of the British wheat area, which reached 400,000 acres in June, 1919, aud has declined since. The reason for the decline is attributed to the maximum Governmeut price of 76s. per quarter ($1.615 per bushel), whereas imported wheat ranges up to 135s. ($2.869 per bushel).

"While the control may terminate before August, 1921, at which time the farmer will obtain a free market, so long as the control continues, wheat harvested in 1921 will be purchased at the average of the price for the twelve months ending August 31, 1921, of all imported wheat, provided the price paid to the home growers shall not exceed 100s. per quarter of 504 pounds ($2.125 per bushel).

"It is of the utmost uational interest that the wheat area should be increased and the conversion of arable land iuto grass land arrested."

With reference to the foregoing situation, the American Agricultural Trade Commissioner at London cabled the following to the Departmeut of Agriculture under date of February 28:

"Cabinet approves following: So long as wheat is controlled and is deprived of a free market, the control price of home-grown wheat of sound milling quality harvested in 1921 will be the average c. i. f. price for the 12 months ending August 31, 1921, of imported wheat of similar or conformable quality, provided that the price paid the home grower shall not exceed 100 shillings per quarter of 504 pounds ($2.125 per bushel)."

[The average wheat acreage in the United Kingdom for the five years 1909–1913 amounted to 1,888,000 acres. During the war period the area in wheat increased to as high as 2,333,000 acres.]

FOREIGN TRADE ITEMS.

[A reference number indicates that additional detailed information is available.]

Meat.—The British Board of Trade announces that on shipments of bacon, ham, and lard to British ports for transshipment, the approval of the Import and Export Licensing Section must first be obtained before the arrival of the commodities in Great Britain.

The imports into Swedeu of American foodstuffs, especially canned meats, have been very heavy and regular during the past few years. At present, however, the demand has been met, aud the importers are generally very well stocked. "The predilection for American meats is very strong," reports the American Consul at Goteborg, "and I feel certain that the trade so happily begun in canned meats direct with America will be continued and possibly increased. As regards the canned product it is reported by several importers that importance is attached not only to the cheapness of the products, but also to the superior quality of the meats offered. This is an important factor, a circumstance that can not be impressed too strongly upon the American exporter." (Reference, Sweden 1693.)

The State Government Commission of Victoria, Australia, recently decided that it was impracticable to fix the price of meat for local consumption and stated that if producers of live stock were to have a reasonable opportunity of "carrying on," it would be necessary for them to receive at least the local parity of world prices when freights become normal, even though the consumer may never be supplied at low rates. (Reference, Australia 3939.)

A Canadian company has obtained a concession of 75,850 square miles of laud north of the Churchhill River, Canada, on which it will graze reindeer and caribou. Meat from these animals will be prepared for American and Canadian markets, according to a report of the American Vice Consul at Calgary. (Refereuce, Canada 3914.)

Wool.—Great Britaiu now permits the export of camel's hair, mohair, and alpaca tops to all destinations. In past years the United States has imported large quantities of these materials from the United Kingdom.

Eggs.—British prices fell steadily duriug the week ending February 21, but were firm at the beginning of the next week. Prices[1] at London on February 23 were as follows, per 120 eggs: English, 30 to 32s. (50 to 56 cents per dozen); Irish, 28 to 30s. (47 to 50 cents per dozen); Danish, 29 to 31s. (49 to 52 cents per dozen); Chinese, 21s. (35 cents per dozen).

Eggs have arrived in Englaud in large quantities and retail at 2½d. (3.54 cents)[1] each.

Butter.—The control price of butter in Great Britain has been increased to 3s. (54 cents)[1] per pound.

Fruit.—In Cuba there is a large demand for imported preserves and jellies. Jams prepared from berries, especially from strawberries, sell well. English goods have an established reputation for quality, but the American trade was well established during the war. However, there is a too common complaint of the bad condition of American goods through apparently careless and inadequate packing. (Reference, Cuba 479.)

The market in Argentiua for preserves, jams, and jellies is rather large, with the United Kingdom leading in this trade. However, with increasing home manufacture the country is becoming a less promising field for the profitable introduction of American goods. The American Consul General at Buenos Aires thinks that American manufacturers of these commodities would not be justified in goiug to great expense in the Argentine market. (Reference, Argentina, 641.)

The British Government paid an average price of 83s. 8d. per hundredweight (18 cents per pound) for currants landed in England during 1919. The maximum retail price is 1s. 2d. (28 cents per pound).

Vegetables.—The American Consul General at Copenhagen cabled on February 25 that the potato surplus in Denmark amounts to about 2,939,467 bushels. The average selling price is 69 cents per bushel, f. o. b. Copenhagen. Cabbage is selling at 95 cents per 100 pounds. Some of this surplus is on the way to the United States.

Grain.—Owing to a shortage of wheat, wheat flour, and corn in South Africa the eustoms duties have beeu temporarily suspended, cables the American Consul at Cape Town.

During the week ending February 7 the average prices[1] received for grain grown in the United Kingdom were as follows, per quarter of 8 bushels: Wheat, 72s. 6d. ($1.50 per bushel); barley, 103s. 9d. ($2.15 per bushel); oats, 58s. 9d. ($1.21 per bushel).

Oils and Oilseeds.—The price of copra in the Federated Malay States reached very high levels during the last months of 1919. The sun-dried products sold as high as $14.50 and fair mixed at $13.75 per picul of 133⅓ pounds. Belgium was a strong buyer, fully 300,000 tons having been contracted for in November and December by that country. Genoa was also a keen buyer. At the close of the year the prices of copra were approximately three times the figures for January, 1919. (Reference, Straits Settlements 3728.)

Danish Trade Increasing.—Denmark is gradually getting baek to a prewar basis of foreign trade as is shown in the following export statistics for the week January 17–23: Butter (including cream recalculated into butter) to Great Britain, 3,386,486 pounds, to Norway and Sweden, 142,417 pounds; whole milk to Germany, 917,114 pounds; bacon to Great Britain, 410,937 pounds; pork to Great Britain, 283,070 pounds, to Norway and Sweden, 75,838 pounds; beef, 870,376 pouuds to Norway and Sweden. Offals 177,029 pouuds, nearly all to Germany. Live cattle, 1,057 head, all to Sweden.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE CABLE RATES.

Week Ending Feb. 28.

Countries.	Coin.	Par value.	High.	Low.
Argentina	Peso	$1.0365	$1.015	$1.0075
Belgium	Franc	.1930	.0738	.07246
Brazil	Milreis	[2] .5462	[3] .26	[3] .26
China:				
Hongkong	Dollar	[4] .8642	.98	.96
Shanghai	Tael	[4] 1.2020	1.58	1.52
Czecho-Slovakia	Krone	.2026	.0105	.01
Denmark	do.	.2680	.1490	.1480
England	Pound	4.8665	3.415	3.365
France	Franc	.1930	.07112	.06993
Germany	Mark	.2382	.0106	.01
Greece	Drachma	.193	.1135	.1050
Italy	Lira	.1930	.05509	.05428
Japan	Yen	.4985	.48	.4725
Jugo-Slavia	Krone	.2026	.008	.0075
Mexico	Peso	.4985	.5225	.5225
Netherlands	Guilder	.4020	.37125	.36875
Norway	Krone	.2680	.1740	.1715
Poland	Mark	.2382	.0066	.0065
Roumania	Leu	.1930	.0150	.013
Serbia	Dinar	.193	.0325	.03
Spain	Peso	.1930	.1750	.1740
Sweden	Krona	.2680	.1870	.1855
Switzerland	Franc	.1930	.16181	.16129

[1] These rates are approximate only, as they represent the value of foreign moneys at New York at a certain hour during the day. These values fluctuate with the demand, which may change even within the hour.
[2] Gold. [3] Government paper. [4] Approximate.

NOTE.—Unless otherwise stated, conversions of foreign prices into United States money have been made at the par value of the foreign moneys.

[1] Conversion made at the rate of exchange prevailing on February 28, when one pound sterling was equal to $3.40.

[1] Conversion made at the rate of exchange prevailing on Feb. 24, when 1 pound sterling was equal to $3.385.

[1] Conversion made at the rate of exchange prevailing on February 7, when one pound sterling was equal to $3.32.

Rubber.—Growth of the rubber industry of the Malay Peninsula has been very rapid. The exports of rubber increased from 430 tons in 1906 to 108,305 tons in 1918, so that now more than 60 per cent of the world's output is produced in the Malay Peninsula, which has outstripped Brazil. In 1914, the United States imported 40,641,305 pounds from Brazil. During the same year the Straits Settlements in the Malay Peninsula furnished a little more than 9,000,000 pounds. In 1918 this country imported from the Straits Settlements 221,389,870 pounds, or 57 per cent of the entire imports of rubber into the United States. During the same year our imports of rubber from Brazil were very little larger than in 1914. More than 80 per cent of our total imports of rubber now come from the East Indies. (Reference Straits Settlements 3727–3728.)

Sugar.—The British Commission on Sugar Supply has fixed the maximum price [1] for sugar for privately imported or "free" sugar for sale by manufacturers or for resale by manufacturers at 120s. per hundredweight ($18.21 per 100 pounds) ex store less 1½ per cent discount. This price was fixed for the period from February 23 until March 20.

Fertilizer.—Large quantities of potash will probably soon be available for export from Germany, as the "January potash production is said to total 550,000 tons, the largest quantity ever mined in one month," reports the American Commissioner at Berlin to the Department of State under date of February 21. (Reference, Germany 3736.)

Shipping.—The British Ministry advises that, effective March 1, all requisitioned space in British steamers in the United States will be released for commercial purposes. Purchases of bacon have been made as far ahead as June, which will insure a steady movement of this traffic until midsummer.

Congestion still continues at British ports. At London a glut of meat was reported, there being 6,250,000 carcasses in warehouses and docks. (Reference, England 3817.)

Prices in China.—The following market quotations of principal articles of export from Hankow, China, for week ended January 7, per picul of 133⅓ pounds:

Commodity.	Hankow taels.	Gold at $1.2384.
Cow hides, best selected	45.00	$55.73
Cow hides, seconds	35.00	44.34
Jute (abutilon)	4.50	5.57
Animal tallow	13.00	16.10
Wood oil	15.00	18.58
Bean oil	12.00	14.86
Egg yolks, liquid, 2 per cent boracic	23.00	28.48

(Reference, China, 3869.)

Food prices.—The following maximum prices [1] have been fixed by the Food Controller for Jamaica: Baking flour, 84s. ($14.82) per bag of 196 pounds; corn meal, 58s. ($9.82) per bag of 196 pounds); American condensed milk, 51s. ($8.63) per case; lard compounds, 70s. ($11.84) per 36 pounds ($0.33 per pound).

[1] Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on Feb. 28 when one pound sterling was equal to $3.40.

THE CANADIAN FLAX SITUATION.

(Continued from page 155.)

with a degree of permanence which should be reflected in her acreage figures. The old irregularities should not occur now. As shown in the following table, Canadian production during the war, like that of the United States, was short and the United States took practically all her offerings. Great Britain's imports of flaxseed slumped during that period from 21,015,000 bushels in 1914 to 8,601,000 bushels in 1917, but are now recovering. For the first 11 months of 1919 British imports of flaxseed reached 22,877,000 bushels, and the indications are that the December returns will boost this figure decidedly.

Production and exports of flaxseed.[1]

[In bushels; 000 omitted.]

Year.	Canadian production.[1]	United States production.[1]	Canadian exports.[2] Total exports.	Canadian exports.[2] Exports to United States.	Great Britain, total imports.[3]
1912	.....	28,073	.....	.....	.....
1913	17,539	17,853	[4] 24,216	[5] 6,577	[5] 26,195
1914	7,175	13,749	[4] 8,566	[5] 9,166	21,015
1915	10,628	11,030	[4] 2,176	[5] 3,477	18,226
1916	8,269	14,296	1,945	1,931	21,487
1917	5,935	9,164	5,196	4,979	8,601
1918	6,055	14,657	6,425	6,371	11,225
1919	6,767	8,919	1,891	1,723	[6] 22,877

Data from Bureau of Crop Estimate unless otherwise indicated.
[1] Crop year.
[2] Years ending Mar. 31.
[3] Calendar years.
[4] From figures of the Linseed Association.
[5] Fiscal years ending June 30.
[6] 11 months only: December figures not yet available.

During the early marketing period of the crop of 1919, the Winnipeg prices for flaxseed were less than those in United States markets to the extent of an amount equal to the tariff. Competition for the Canadian seed, however, forced it to a premium during most of the month of December and it reached $5.17 a bushel in domestic markets.

The Canadian flaxseed production of 6,767,000 bushels in 1919, about an average yield, ranks higher in value among Canadian crops because of flaxseed prices. According to the American Consul at Kingston, it ranks fourth among the grains. This is not surprising, since approximately 4 per cent of the farmed area is planted to flaxseed, while in the United States the percentage is less than 1. The stimulation of the production of flaxseed is more noticeable in those sections where it is grown for fiber. There has been a continual growth of this industry in Ontario and northern Michigan. The curtailment of the production in Russia, due to the war, and the occupation of Belgium by the Germans, may have caused the impetus given this young industry in Ontario. High prices for tow, as well as for fiber flaxseed, may be attributed to the same cause. Ireland normally drew her seed from Continental Europe, readily absorbed at a profitable figure to the growers fiber flax-seed from Ontario which otherwise would have been sold for oil purposes. The Canadian authorities are offering inducements in the way of prizes for flax spinning which promises much for the future of this industry. The following paragraph from a report by the American Consul at Kingston shows how it is prospering:

"If the export trade (flaxseed) has been marked by irregularities during the past five years there has been a steady expansion in the shipments of flax fiber, the value of which for the fiscal year 1919, being $827,327, compared with $374,241 the previous year, 1918, and but $31,230 in 1914. During the present year the trade promises to be still larger, the total for the five months ending August, 1919, the latest period for which figures are available, being $759,782, compared with $658,115, for the corresponding period of the previous year, 1918. In other words, the exports for the five months are in excess of the 12 months of the fiscal year 1918 by $389,541."

In the United States flax for fiber is grown in Michigan and Oregon, and to a limited extent in Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and New York.

The Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture has been serving this industry by the selection and distribution of flaxseed varieties yielding superior fiber.

ASIATIC PEANUTS QUIET.

According to advice of February 17, from the San Francisco office of the Bureau of Markets, the oriental peanut market has been very quiet during the past month. There is practically no demand for future shipments. During the month of December a considerable quantity was sold for January, February, and March delivery, and the importers are having difficulty in filling these orders. The oriental producer seems reluctant to dispose of his holdings, wanting more money. The imports for the first half of February were comparatively light.

CALIFORNIA APPLES AND ONIONS.

For the past three months there has been practically no change in the San Francisco apple market. The cold-storage holdings are comparatively heavy, amounting to 298,478 boxes, compared with 320,815 boxes last week. California Newtowns, fancy grade, are selling to retailers at $2.10 to $2.35; extra fancy Washington Winesaps are mostly $4; Oregon Spitzenbergs, extra fancy, large size, $3 to $3.25, fancy grade, $2.50 to $3, depending upon the size. The cold-storage holdings consist mostly of California Newtowns. Apples are meeting with a very slow demand and movement, although the quality is very good.

Then onion car lot market in San Francisco is reported very quiet. February 25 there were 73,541 sacks of onions in cold storage of the Australian Brown variety, compared with 88,626 sacks a week ago. These onions are keeping well and in fine condition, and the prevailing price February 25 was $4 per 100 pounds, as against $5 to $5.25 six weeks ago.

COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS OF FISH, FEBRUARY 15.

The monthly report of the Bureau of Markets, Department of Agriculture, shows the following cold-storage holdings of fish for February 15, 1920. The quantities shown include an estimate of the holdings of storages not reported.

The holdings of frozen fish amounted to 47,962,625 pounds compared with 67,617,473 pounds on February 15, 1919, a decrease of 19,654,848 pounds, or 29.1 per cent.

The holdings of cured herring amounted to 16,627,923 pounds compared with 14,130,563 pounds on February 15, 1919, an increase of 2,497,360 pounds, or 17.7 per cent.

The holdings of mild-cured salmon amounted to 7,185,005 pounds compared with 5,191,033 pounds on February 15, 1919, an increase of 1,993,972 pounds, or 38.4 per cent.

DECREASED HOG SUPPLY AT KANSAS CITY.

In connection with the decrease in the number of hogs on farms in the five principal States (Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Arkansas) contributing to the Kansas City market as shown by the report of the Bureau of Crop Estimates for January 1, it is of interest to note that the receipts at Kansas City during the period October, 1919, to February, 1920, inclusive, also showed a material reduction in number. The combined totals of hogs on farms in these five States show 11,867,000 on January 1, 1920, as compared with 13,601,000 on January 1, 1919, a decrease of 15 per cent. Receipts of hogs at Kansas City during the five months indicated aggregated 1,278,475 compared with 1,894,184 for the same period a year ago, a decrease of 33 per cent.

The following table shows the number of hogs on farms in the five States named on the two dates:

State.	Jan. 1, 1920.	Jan. 1, 1919.	Decrease.
			Per cent.
Missouri	4,305,000	4,629,000	7
Nebraska	3,366,000	3,825,000	12
Kansas	1,667,000	2,381,000	30
Arkansas	1,586,000	1,725,000	8
Oklahoma	943,000	1,036,000	9
Total	11,867,000	13,601,000	15

The receipts of hogs at Kansas City for the past five months compared with the corresponding months last year were as follows:

Month.	1919–20	1918–19	Decrease.
			Per cent.
October	216,373	298,146	27
November	231,470	355,622	35
December	309,649	455,430	32
January	315,821	450,703	30
February	205,162	334,289	39
Total	1,278,475	1,894,184	33

MATERIAL DECREASE IN THE RAW STOCKS OF HIDES AND SKINS.

The hide and skin survey for January, 1920, closed February 25. The table "Raw stocks of hides and skins, January 31" shows the stocks reported on hand and in transit at close of business January 31, 1920, January 31, 1919, and December 31, 1919, with percentage comparisons.

With the exception of horse, mule, and buffalo hides, deer, elk, and kid skins and pigskin strips, the hide and skin survey for January, 1920, shows a general decline in stocks in comparison with those reported on hand December 31, 1919. A material increase, with two minor exceptions, is shown in comparison with the stocks on hand January 31, 1919.

When the January report was closed, statements had not been received from 56 concerns that had reported holdings in December, 1919. It is not probable, however, that the shortage apparent on comparison with the December summary would have been overcome had the stocks of these concerns been included in the January summary, for there was a material decrease in the holdings of a majority of the concerns whose statements were received and recorded.

Raw stocks of hides and skins, January 31.

[Numbers of pieces in stock and in transit.]

	Jan. 31, 1920.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Jan. 31, 1919.	Increase or decrease compared with—	
				Dec. 31, 1919.	Jan. 31, 1919.
				Per cent.	*Per cent.*
Concerns reporting....number..	1,118	1,174	1,339	.....	.....
Cattle hides....pieces..	6,549,550	7,349,146	5,922,514	−10.9	10.6
Calf and kip skins:					
Calves....do....	1,570,718	2,117,442	1,294,949	−25.8	21.3
Kips....do....	965,336	1,122,156	515,523	−14.0	87.3
Horse hides....do....	277,626	267,236	87,551	3.9	217.1
Horse fronts (whole)....do....	110,778	201,372	18,258	−45.0	506.7
Horse butts (pairs)....do....	317,311	373,244	124,432	−15.0	155.0
Horse shanks....do....	53,811	54,779	133,747	− 1.8	−59.8
Mule hides....do....	341	268	.....	27.2	.....
Colt, ass, donkey, and pony....do....	8,284	9,389	4,457	−11.8	85.9
Kangaroo and wallaby....do....	788,479	907,410	353,161	−13.1	123.3
Deer and elk....do....	237,477	171,013	232,958	38.9	1.9
Goat....do....	12,849,532	15,984,179	4,239,381	−19.6	203.1
Kid....do....	926,677	752,055	245,815	23.2	277.0
Cabretta....do....	1,887,026	2,092,425	601,686	− 9.8	213.6
Sheep and lamb....do....	8,763,643	9,296,812	6,844,680	− 5.7	28.0
Buffalo....do....	488,224	424,217	44,664	15.1	993.1
Pig and hog skins....do....	75,405	158,631	166,021	−52.4	−54.6
Pig and hog strips....pounds..	1,586,271	1,189,945.	1,393,295	33.3	13.8
Aligator skins....pieces..	16,308	20,158	.....	−19.1	.....
Other hides and skins....do....	35,518	35,367	.....	0.4	.....

This table is compiled from reports received from 1,118 packers, dealers, importers, and tanners. Many of these firms also rendered reports for their subsidiary and branch establishments which makes the total number of reports considerably larger than 1,118. Schedules were sent to 1,341 concerns; of these 170 replied, advising that they had no stock on hand and 223 did not return their schedules in time for inclusion in this table. Of the firms that failed to report promptly for December, 30 reports were received too late to be included in the regular December report. These aggregated 142,635 cattle hides, 57,648 calf skins, 14,265 kip skins, 158,133 sheep and lamb skins, 28,343 goat, kid, and cabretta skins, 18,321 horse, colt, and donkey hides, and 3,781 pig skins.

FEBRUARY MEAT TRADE.

(Continued from front page.)

February, while receipts of sheep and lambs showed an increase of approximately 82,000 compared with February, 1919. Using the receipts of these seven markets as a barometer of the live stock movement in the United States, decreased supplies of both beef and pork are indicated.

Beef Prices Lower.

Notwithstanding a decreased marketing of cattle, there has been a general lowering of dressed beef prices at all large consuming centers, the better grades showing the greatest declines. With a top of $23 on good steer beef at Chicago on February 1, the month's closing prices show a decline of $2.50 and a top of $20.50. New York prices declined from $20 on February 1 to $18 on February 27, a decline of $2 for the month. Philadelphia prices also declined $2 during the same period, while conditions at Boston were practically stable, and closing prices were in line with quotations of February 1. Declines were recorded on the lower grades of beef steers at all markets, common beef being affected the least. The month's offerings were conspicuous by the absence of choice beef, indicating a continuance of the practice of short feeding, a situation which has been further intensified by a general lack of demand for finished beef. The demand for bulls has been light and of a spasmodic nature, with the price trend sharply downward.

Good Demand for Lamb and Mutton.

Although liberal increased receipts of live sheep and lambs at seven markets indicate a fair percentage of increase in the country, the demand for dressed lambs was generally good and of a healthy nature and resulted in a new high price record for the season at New York during the week ending February 13, when the top on choice lambs reached $37. The price trend for the first half of the month at all markets was upward while the tendency during the following two weeks was steady to lower with uneven declines during the closing days. The records of receipts at the eastern markets show a diminishing number of older sheep while lambs have been on the increase.

Veal Declines Sharply.

After a month of generally steady prices on the better grades of veal, there were sharp declines during the closing days, due principally to increased seasonal supplies of local slaughtered calves and a drop in hide values. At times markets were over supplied with low grade and heavy western dressed calves, but prices showed only slight fluctuations.

The demand for fresh pork cuts at eastern consuming centers was fairly regular and showed some improvement over the previous month, with slight fluctuations and a continual tendency to higher values. Prices on loins at eastern markets made an average advance of $5.25 for the month, with price ranges narrowing toward the close. During the second week Chicago prices on loins advanced $7, but reacted the following week and lost $5, closing at an advance of $2.50 for the month. The month's trading in fresh shoulder cuts was influenced by the local demand for loins, prices holding steady at the eastern markets. Prices on picnics at Chicago fluctuated widely and showed a decided tendency toward lower values late in the month.

"The British Government announced that 300,000 carcasses of lamb and mutton have been shipped to the United States," cabled the American Agricultural Trade Commissioner at London on February 28.

The British Food Controller has announced that British grown hogs and hog products will be decontrolled from March 31. The existing control of other home produced meats will continue until July 4, when the free market will be restored, reports the American consul general at London, under date of February 27, 1920.

The American Consul at Chihuahua, Mexico, reported that an unusual trade movement during December was the importation of several carloads of hogs from the United States in order to fatten them on the cheap Mexican corn.

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